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Date: January 22, 2025

To: Chairman Sorvaag and Members of Senate Appropriations Committee -  
Education and Environmental Division

From: Deborah G. Halvorson, Vice President of Business Services, WSC

RE: SB 2212 - Relating to the University System Capital Building Fund

This written testimony is to express Williston State College's support of SB2212 and to request an amendment. WSC especially appreciates this bill's proposed changes for reduced matching funds, higher overall funding, and the ability to use funds for bond payments. These are of great benefit to WSC.

WSC has a number of significant projects underway or in planning utilizing tiered funds. Many of these are "Phase I" initiatives that will require additional efforts in the next biennium. WSC will be fully utilizing Tier I and Tier II allocations along with a portion of Tier III on these projects.

WSC requests that the use of Tier III funds be expanded to include purposes covered in Tiers I and II. This will enable WSC to continue to address extraordinary repairs and deferred maintenance on a timely and cost-efficient basis. The proposed changes to Tier III funds reduces the amount of tiered funding available to WSC and would cause some projects to be further deferred.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony, the Capital Funds Program, and for your efforts supporting North Dakota's higher education system.