



January 31, 2025

RE: Testimony to North Dakota Senate Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Committee on SB 2323

Chairman Nathe and members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Eckman, Airport Director for the Minot International Airport with the City of Minot, ND. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2323.

The Minot community, along with many communities in the western part of the state, was significantly impacted by the oil boom resulting in the need for infrastructure improvements to support the growth. This required Minot and similarly impacted cities to assume significant debt in order to address the growth of our communities. An example of the new infrastructure is a new commercial terminal built in Minot in 2016 to support the exponential growth in passengers. The terminal addressed the capacity constraints Minot experienced during the peak of the oil boom, the debt acquired to construct the terminal building currently sits at over \$20 million with annual debt payments of approximately \$2 million.

SB 2323, as it is currently being proposed, will aid cities impacted by the rapid growth. This will allow hub cities like Minot, Dickinson, and Williston, the opportunity to reduce their debt, and ultimately allow for airports to pay down their debt, freeing up airport revenues that can be dedicated towards other critical projects that serve our communities.

Your support of SB 2323 will provide much needed financial assistance and debt relief to impacted communities. I respectfully request your support of SB 2323.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Eckman", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Jennifer K. Eckman, A.A.E.
Airport Director
Minot International Airport

