



Testimony of Laura Lacher
Economic Development Association of North Dakota
In Support of SB 2018
January 15, 2025

Chair Wanzek and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee – Government Operations Division:

I am Laura Lacher, executive director of the Economic Development Association of North Dakota (EDND). I want to express EDND's support for SB 2018.

EDND represents more than 80 state economic development organizations on the front line of economic development efforts throughout North Dakota. The organization's primary purpose is to support the creation of new wealth and the diversification of North Dakota's economy.

EDND has a long-standing and complementary relationship with the Department of Commerce. They are a premier partner providing valuable tools, programs and resources for the economic developers in our state.

This strong partnership with the state helps us recruit and retain new and expanding businesses locally, train North Dakota's workforce, and compete in national and international markets. We also rely on the Commerce Department to help local entrepreneurs explore potential opportunities and diversify the state's economy.

Because of what Commerce does for communities of all sizes, we would like to support SB 2018. Thank you for your consideration.