



Roosevelt Custer
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Testimony of Teran Doerr
Roosevelt Custer Regional Council
In Favor of SB 2225
January 27, 2025

Chairman Wanzek and Committee Members:

My name is Teran Doerr, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Roosevelt Custer Regional Council, representing Region 8 in North Dakota. I am submitting this written testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2225.

Housing has become one of the most significant challenges facing our state. This challenge is felt in every corner of North Dakota, including the communities of Region 8. While each community faces unique circumstances, the common thread is that housing shortages significantly hinder efforts to attract and retain the workers needed to sustain and grow local economies. The lack of adequate, affordable housing is a key barrier that affects industries and livelihoods across the state. Senate Bill 2225 recognizes that no two communities are the same and provides the flexibility to address the diverse housing needs of our state effectively.

I am especially encouraged by the bill's recognition of the diverse housing needs across the state, including a set-aside for rural areas. While rural communities face unique challenges, such as high infrastructure costs, limited funding, and fewer private sector developers, this bill ensures that rural areas will have access to the resources they need. At the same time, SB 2225 is designed to address housing needs in all types of communities, from urban centers to small towns, enabling local governments and stakeholders to tackle workforce and housing challenges effectively.

The high cost of infrastructure, such as roads, water, sewer, and utilities, is one of the largest hindrances to housing development. Without upfront support to address these expenses, projects often become financially unfeasible, leaving communities without the housing they need to meet workforce demands. SB 2225 offers a clear and straightforward path to reducing these barriers by providing the tools needed to overcome infrastructure challenges.

This bill also promotes partnerships and collaboration, which are essential to successful housing development. Partnerships between local governments, state agencies, and private developers allow for a more targeted approach to meeting housing needs while maximizing available resources. The simplicity of the program outlined in SB 2225 makes it an attractive and workable solution for communities across North Dakota, enabling them to address housing shortages more effectively and efficiently.

The connection between housing and workforce is undeniable. Without adequate housing, we cannot hope to attract or retain workers in critical industries such as healthcare, education, manufacturing, and energy. Addressing housing shortages is not just about providing shelter; it is about creating an environment where workers can live, contribute, and thrive in the communities they serve. Senate Bill 2225 is an important step toward making that vision a reality.

On behalf of the Roosevelt Custer Regional Council and the communities of Region 8, I urge your strong support for Senate Bill 2225. Housing is a critical piece of the puzzle in solving workforce shortages and ensuring the continued growth and success of North Dakota. Thank you for your consideration of this vital legislation.

Respectfully submitted,
Teran Doerr
Executive Director
Roosevelt Custer Regional Council