

Testimony in Support of SB 2225
Senate Appropriations Committee
January 24, 2025



Chairman Wanzek and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of the North Dakota Association of Builders, I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of SB 2225. The bill is aimed at addressing the housing infrastructure needs of North Dakota communities through the Housing for Opportunity, Mobility, and Empowerment (HOME) Grant Program.

Access to quality, affordable housing is a foundational element of economic growth and community stability. This bill's \$50 million appropriation is a significant step toward ensuring that North Dakota's communities have the necessary resources to meet their housing challenges. By allocating funding across various community sizes, this program acknowledges that housing needs differ based on location, ensuring that small towns, mid-sized, and large cities alike can benefit equitably.

The requirement for a match from political subdivisions, local developers, and private entities promotes public-private partnerships that will maximize the impact of these investments. By leveraging local resources, we can expand our capacity to build quality housing. Additionally, the provision allowing communities to identify their own housing priorities ensures that the program remains flexible and responsive to local needs.

As builders, we recognize the urgent demand for workforce housing, particularly in growing areas where affordability has become a barrier. This program will provide support for infrastructure development, enabling us to construct homes that working families, seniors, and young professionals can afford. Furthermore, the emergency designation of this bill underscores the immediate need for action, and we strongly support its expedited implementation to prevent delays in addressing our housing shortages.

In conclusion, the NDAB urges the committee to support SB 2225. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working together to build a stronger, more resilient housing market for our state.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Sattler
North Dakota Association of Builders