



Matthew Marshall
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RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2225

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

For nearly a decade workforce has been named as one of the top limiting factors preventing North Dakota businesses from reaching their full potential. As companies compete to keep workers in the state and bring new talent to North Dakota, housing has become a major barrier to overcome. All cities struggle with the housing issue but some more than others, in particular, rural communities struggle to keep an inventory for middle income earners available. Since the year 2000, ninety-six percent of new housing starts have been in only seven North Dakota counties leaving the rest of the state with an aging housing stock and low supply.

SB 2225 addresses the core need within communities by partnering with private capital and local stakeholders to lower costs and establishes a market in areas where there isn't good new construction data for banks and developers to rely on. Once these markets are reestablished, we can rely on the private sector to right size the inventory in these communities.

SB 2225 will expand housing capacity across the state to foster sustainable healthy growth for our businesses and communities. I urge a Do PASS on SB 2225.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Marshall". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Matthew Marshall

Member Services, Rates & Economic Development Manager