



January 17, 2025

Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee

SB 2097

Senator Luick, Chair

For the record, my name is Kory Peterson. I am appearing before you today on behalf of the North Dakota League of Cities, in full support of SB 2097.

This proposed bill provides incredible opportunities for rural North Dakota. Having been raised on a farm in North Dakota back in the 70's and 80's, I can remember some of the challenges we had back then with farming and local communities.

This bill provides an avenue for rural communities to work on essential services, help improve quality of life, and help address the housing shortage in our rural communities.

With communities needing to upgrade their aging infrastructure, this provides another avenue to help with the cost of replacement. For example, water and sewer systems have a usable life span and replacing/upgrading these systems have significant project costs.

Rural communities could use the funding for workforce development and retention. This is a huge concern throughout the state. This bill would allow an avenue for communities to work on a project to retain and attract talent to their communities.

Along with workforce issues, this bill would allow for communities to use these funds for childcare facilities, which the lack of is a known issue all over the state. Having access to a quality childcare facility is another way to help retain a workforce.

This bill has the potential to provide rural communities with the ability to improve concerns they are dealing with. The League of Cities fully supports SB2097.

Thank you.

Kory Peterson