

Chairman Luick and members of the committee,

My name is Kristi Haugenoe, and I am the Executive Director of NW North Dakota Community Foundation. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2097.

I have lived in Crosby for more than 35 years. Population 1,036. The establishment of a Rural Community Endowment Fund by the legislature will help ensure long-term sustainability as well as help business recruitment in our rural community. Like many small rural communities, there are many needs. Some of the needs in our community are housing, workforce development, infrastructure improvements, and strengthening our local economy. These needs often get put on hold or don't happen at all due to the lack of funding and the declining population.

Our small rural communities are the heart of North Dakota, and we want to keep it that way. We need your support. Please pass Senate Bill 2097.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kristi Haugenoe