



February 5, 2025

Dear Chairman Luick and Committee Members,

As the mayors of Fargo, West Fargo and Harwood, we write in strong support for Senate Bill 2265, which provides \$3 million in funding for the Veterans Cemetery Center at the Fargo National Cemetery. This project is a critical investment to ensure that our veterans and their families receive the dignified services they have earned.

Since its dedication in 2019, the Fargo National Cemetery has expanded significantly, now encompassing 35 acres. This progress demonstrates the deep appreciation and commitment our communities have for those who have served our nation. However, the cemetery still lacks essential facilities that families, veterans and Honor Guard members need to properly honor their loved ones during inclement weather.

The Veterans Cemetery Center will ensure that the Fargo National Cemetery provides a setting worthy of those who have sacrificed so much. Key features will include:

- A gathering area for family and friends to meet before and after interment
- A gallery honoring veterans and showcasing their service
- Offices for Veterans Affairs staff to assist families and manage cemetery operations
- A breakroom for Honor Guard members, who dedicate their time to ensure dignified services
- Indoor restrooms to accommodate visitors year-round
- A garage for a hearse, ensuring proper funeral service operations
- A parking lot to improve accessibility and convenience

Our goal is to bring the Fargo National Cemetery to the same high standard as the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery in Mandan, a widely respected state-run cemetery. This project has strong support from the metro and rural residents alike, and we ask for your help in making it a reality.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our veterans.

Sincerely,

Dr. Timothy Mahoney
Mayor, The City of Fargo

Bernie Dardis
Mayor, City of West Fargo

Blake Hankey
Mayor, City of Harwood