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Friday, February 7, 2025
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs

RE: Support for SB 2390

Sen. Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee:

On behalf of the North Central Planning Council (NCPC), the ND Region 3 planning and development council, I want to express support for Senate Bill 2390.

North Dakota Region 3 includes six counties: Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Ramsey, Rolette, and Towner and two reservations, Spirit Lake Nation and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. There are 42 cities in Region 3, with Devils Lake being the largest, housing a population of 7,192. Among these 42 cities, 35 have populations under 500, and 23 of those have fewer than 100 residents. All these communities would be eligible to apply to the Rural Catalyst Grant Program.

Small towns of North Dakota are a crucial part of our rural lifestyle and provide support to our agriculture industry. SB2390 would provide for projects in art and culture, community and economic development, education and health and wellness. These are the areas that make our communities vibrant places to live.

NCPC has assisted its counties, small towns and residents in several areas including identifying funding sources and assisting with applications. Many of these program funds have gone to larger communities that have access to more resources. The Rural Catalyst Grant Program will remove the barrier of competition against larger cities and provide opportunities to the very small rural towns.

Thank you for your consideration and support for **SB 2390**.

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