



307 Main Street  
PO Box 595  
Cavalier, ND 58220  
(701) 331-2121  
angelle@redriverrc.com

Testimony of Angelle French  
Pembina County Job Development Authority  
In Favor Senate Bill 2390  
February 7, 2025

Dear Chairman Luick and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

On behalf of the Pembina County Job Development Authority (PCJDA), I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 2390. This bill is an important step in fostering economic growth and sustainability in rural communities by establishing a Rural Catalyst Committee, Grant Program, and Fund. Additionally, it ensures fair representation, expands the definition of rural communities, and provides much-needed resources for economic development initiatives.

One of the key strengths of Senate Bill 2390 is that it creates a direct link between community projects and development staff at the regional planning councils and economic development networks. This structured approach ensures that rural communities have the necessary expertise and resources to successfully implement projects that enhance economic opportunity, infrastructure, and quality of life.

The bill also appropriately defines rural as communities with populations of 8,500 or less, going lower than this will exclude many communities that face the same challenges as smaller towns but lack adequate resources to address them. Expanding the definition creates a larger pool of funds, allowing for support of projects that benefit a broader range of rural communities and prevent the creation of a "missing middle" where communities slightly above 1,000 residents are left without the resources they need.

By supporting Senate Bill 2390, the state will provide vital resources to rural communities, allowing them to invest in long-term sustainability and growth. The bill's provisions will strengthen the economic resilience of rural North Dakota by ensuring that more communities have access to the tools and funding they need to thrive.

We encourage your support of Senate Bill 2390 and appreciate your commitment to empowering rural communities through strategic investment and representation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angelle French", written in a cursive style.

Angelle French  
Director  
Pembina County JDA