



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

I am Brekka Kramer, President | CEO of the Minot Area Chamber EDC (MACEDC). I offer testimony in favor of Senate Bill 2398, which is aimed at protecting crucial missions of the Department of Defense and our national security.

MACEDC firmly supports limiting encroachment that could impact force readiness at all military installations in North Dakota. A legislative solution at the State level is warranted to promote consistency in the administration of a process that would assess the effects of development adjacent to military installations or within the airspace necessary for execution of the military's missions. An effective solution will require strong coordination with the military installations and local planning, zoning, and building permit agencies. To allow more time for this necessary coordination to occur, we would suggest that the bill be amended to state the following:

LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly to discourage activities that interfere with or negatively impact military installation operations, testing, training, and overall force readiness.

LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY. During the 2025-27 interim, the legislative management, with input from military installations and local jurisdictions responsible for administering planning, zoning and permitting of construction, shall study the effects of potential encroachment upon the areas of the state that are utilized for military operations. The study must include a compatibility assessment of potential uses within the areas surrounding military installations, with the extents determined through coordination with the current and anticipated missions of each military base. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.

MACEDC thanks the community of Grand Forks for leading the legislative and regulatory review of airspace encroachment mitigation at Grand Forks Air Force Base. The study has been shared with our community.

The boundary of Minot Air Force Base includes more than the base itself, it includes 15 missile alert facilities, 150 Minuteman II missiles located in underground launch facilities positioned in the 8,500 square mile missile complex in the northwest part of the state.

Minot truly isn't Minot without Minot Air Force Base. Minot Air Force Base is the only installation within the Department of Defense with two legs of the nuclear triad, the 5th Bomb Wing and the 91st Missile Wing. The 5th Bomb Wing and the 91st Missile Wing are Air Force Global Strike Command units. The nuclear triad serves as the backbone of America's national security providing strategic deterrence, global strike and combat support....anytime, anywhere!



Support for SB 2398
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs
Chairman Luick
February 13, 2025

It should be noted that North Dakota is also preparing for Sentinel, the weapon system to replace the aging Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile system. It represents the critical modernization of the land-based leg of the U.S. nuclear triad.

I have the distinct honor of serving on the North Dakota Military Commission and appreciate the hard work that the Governor and State of North Dakota has done and continues to do in supporting military and making North Dakota the most military friendly state.

Military has an economic impact of around \$1.2 billion in North Dakota. Minot Air Force Base is over half that state military economic impact at \$621 million (FY23). Minot Air Force Base plays a vital role in our national defense and our state economy, and it is our responsibility to do what we can to protect the installations while allowing for engagement at all levels.

Appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

Thank you,

Brekka Kramer
Minot Area Chamber EDC President | CEO