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January 22, 2025

Members of the Senate Appropriation Committee,

My name is Brandon Baumbach, and I am the Business Manager for Grand Forks Public School District #1 and Grand Forks Air Force Base School District #140.

**Grand Forks Public School District and Grand Forks Air Force Base Public School District SUPPORTS SB 2149.**

Grand Forks Public School District #1 has a unique relationship with the Grand Forks Air Force Base School District #140 through a Joint Powers Agreement to provide educational services to the students of the Grand Forks Air Force Base since the construction of the installation. Although the Grand Forks Public School District provides educational services, capital construction is the responsibility of the Grand Forks Air Force Base School District. The Grand Forks Air Force Base School District does not have the financial capacity to build without access to low-interest financing.

The Grand Forks Air Force Base School District was recently invited to participate in a cost-sharing arrangement with the Department of Defense to replace the Twining Elementary and Middle School building. Under this arrangement, the federal government will cover 80% of the project's cost. This tremendous opportunity makes it a reality to modernize our school for military families, but the affordability of the 20% match is still not a given without low-interest financing.

The school construction assistance revolving loan fund has been instrumental in maintaining and upgrading aging school infrastructure throughout the state. Its 2% interest rate ensures we maximize the value of construction projects.

SB 2149's proposed amendments to Section 15.1-36-08 of the North Dakota Century Code to enhance the school construction assistance revolving loan fund reaffirms this commitment and, for the first time, extends its benefits to schools on military installations—a crucial addition to this vital program.



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Equal opportunity employer

Grand Forks School District prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, or other status protected by law. The District also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups, as required by federal law.

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As a community, we know the Grand Forks Air Base has a significant, positive impact on the Grand Forks community, and we must continue to support the military installation.

**I urge you to vote in favor of SB 2149.** This legislation represents a sound investment in our schools' future and students' success across North Dakota. Its impact will be immediate and long-lasting for districts throughout the state, including our military school districts.

Thank you for your service to the state of North Dakota and thoughtful deliberation on this critical issue.

Please contact me for further discussion on how this bill directly benefits the Grand Forks and Grand Forks Air Force Base public school districts and communities.

Sincerely,

GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AND GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT



Brandon Baumbach  
Business Manager

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