

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig, and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota’s largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of House Bill 1442.

In our 2024 ND Economics and Employer Survey of our membership, we asked our members if they felt state agencies were understanding/responsive to business needs. Almost half of the respondents indicated agencies understood business needs. However, 51% were either unsure or felt agencies did not.



Businesses rely on state agencies for a variety of needs such as licensing, permitting, and workforce development resources. We feel this proposed taskforce will help ensure efficient utilization of state resources and identify outdated or overly restrictive regulations.

Businesses understand the importance of operating efficiently. In the bill’s current form, representatives from the private sector are not included in the proposed makeup of the taskforce. We hope the committee will consider amending the bill to include a representative from the private sector. At a minimum, we hope the task force will engage with the private sector to help identify areas of concern from the business community’s perspective.

We respectfully request your support of HB 1442 and stand ready to provide assistance to ensure business needs are met as the taskforce moves forward.