



Airport Association of North Dakota

**Ryan Riesinger - President Anthony Dudas - Vice President
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January 28, 2025

RE: Testimony to Senate Finance and Taxation Committee on SB 2323

Chairman Weber and members of the committee,

I am Ryan Riesinger, President of the Airport Association of North Dakota (AAND) and Executive Director of the Grand Forks Regional Airport Authority (GFK). I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify. AAND is the professional organization for North Dakota Airports and it serves to promote airports and aviation across the state. On behalf of AAND and GFK I want to provide support of SB 2323.

The airports in Williston, Minot, and Dickinson provide critical infrastructure for their growing communities. Since the oil boom, we have witnessed substantial growth that brought about needed improvements at these airports, to include a new terminal in Minot, new primary runway and taxiway in Dickinson, and a completely new airport in Williston. All of these projects were well justified, but the communities needed to take on debt in order to complete them.

SB 2323 would allocate \$40 million with a distribution to hub cities (Williston, Minot, and Dickinson) from the Energy Impact Grant Fund. This distribution to the hub cities could be utilized for debt repayments. We believe this would allow those cities to pay down debt associated with their respective airport-related infrastructure development and/or other needed projects. AAND and GFK support this approach to improve the finances of these communities for their large airport infrastructure projects.

In closing, AAND and GFK are supportive of SB 2323. We respectfully request that the committee provide a do pass on the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Riesinger", with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Ryan Riesinger
President, Airport Association of North Dakota
Executive Director, Grand Forks Regional Airport Authority