



WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR SB 2323

SENATE FINANCE & TAXATION COMMITTEE

January 28, 2025

Scott Decker, Mayor of the City of Dickinson, ND

Chairman Senator Weber and members of the Senate Finance & Taxation Committee.

My name is Scott Decker, Mayor of Dickinson. The City of Dickinson stands in support of SB 2323.

Even though oil impacts have lessened in the last decade, it does not mean they are behind us. We accepted the risk based on the need for hub cities to house the workers who came to North Dakota to make the Williston Basin oil and gas development a reality. SB 2323 is an equitable piece of legislation relating to an energy grant fund that pays back dollars to those who bore the brunt of the oil impact, and it also provides continuing appropriations for debt relief.

As you are aware, the City of Dickinson has experienced oil impacts for several years. With an explosive population gain due to rapid growth, the city has built much of the core infrastructure required to deal with the tremendous population gain. Our capital infrastructure improvement plan, including the forecasted grants and loans in the appendices, is much lower than previous years but still requires a substantial annual spend to maintain our streets and infrastructure. According to the AE2S 6-city study, the City of Dickinson is forecasted to spend over \$20 million annually in the next 7 years to support the forecasted 3.7% population gain anticipated. Also, the hospital administrator has reported record births for the last four years.

The City's long term debt outstanding is approximately \$89.4 million which will be required to be serviced over the next 20 to 30 years. This debt requires an annual payment of \$5.5 million. Also, we had to add staff in several departments to accommodate the new infrastructure. These staff additions, plus the requirement of paying for short-term capital leases and maintaining the new infrastructure, has required an infusion of cash into our general fund from Oil Impact of \$4 million annually. The study conclusively showed the City of Dickinson has operated lean from a staffing point of view for many years. It is time to increase staff in our Police Dept., Fire Dept., and Public Works along with our new city department, Dickinson Ambulance Service. The AE2S study indicated that the City of Dickinson has a very well-balanced fiscal approach to meeting local needs. By being fiscally responsible the city has raised fees where necessary, and have implemented water and sewer impact fees to offset the additional operation expenses.

I, as Mayor of Dickinson, am in support of SB 2323 and the share of oil and gas allocations presented in the bill. I stand before you to answer any questions that you may have.

Attachments: Appendix A & B





APPENDIX – A FORECASTED GRANTS

Project Name	Grant Source
FAIRWAY/STATE AVE STORMWATER DRAINAGE	FEMA - Hazard Mitigation Funding
NORTHWEST REGIONAL POND	North Dakota Department of Water Resources - Flood Control
QUEEN CITY DAM EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN & MITIGATION STUDY	North Dakota Department of Water Resources - General Water Management
DICKINSON DRAINAGEWAY	North Dakota Department of Water Resources - Flood Control
DOWNTOWN DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS	FEMA - Hazard Mitigation Funding
PATTERSON LAKE IMPROVEMENTS	Bureau of Reclamation - Water Smart Program
8th Ave SE Crossings & Heart River Tributary 47	FEMA - Hazard Mitigation Funding
MANNS DAM EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN	North Dakota Department of Water Resources - General Water Management
2026 WATERMAIN & LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT	North Dakota Department of Water Resources - Municipal Water Supply
WATER TREATMENT PLANT DEMOLITION	North Dakota Department of Water Resources - Municipal Water Supply
2027 WATERMAIN & LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT	North Dakota Department of Water Resources - Municipal Water Supply
2028 WATERMAIN & LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT	North Dakota Department of Water Resources - Municipal Water Supply
2029 WATERMAIN AND LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT	North Dakota Department of Water Resources - Municipal Water Supply
10TH AVE E - MUSEUM DR TO 21ST ST (24211 & 24212) - URBAN RECON	North Dakota Department of Water Resources - Municipal Water Supply
5TH ST SE – 3RD AVE W to 6TH AVE E (PCN 24213) - MILL AND OVERLAY_NEW CONSTRUCTION	North Dakota Department of Water Resources - Municipal Water Supply
SIMS ST - 2ND ST E TO 9TH ST E	North Dakota Department of Water Resources - Municipal Water Supply
BALER/RECYCLE BUILDING EXPANSION	Environmental Protection Agency - Environmental Justice and Community Change & EPA SWIFR
EAST BROADWAY DAM	North Dakota Department of Water Resources - General Water Management
2025 WATERMAIN & LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT	North Dakota Department of Water Resources - Municipal Water Supply
PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER	North Dakota Department of Water Resources - Municipal Water Supply & Department of Defense - Infrastructure
10TH AVE E - MUSEUM DR TO 21ST ST (24211 & 24212)	North Dakota Department of Transportation - FLEX FUND
9TH ST W & 5TH AVE W INTERSECTION SAFETY	Federal Highway Administration - Highway Safety Improvement
DOWNTOWN LIGHTING	North Dakota Department of Transportation - Urban Grant
FORECASTED GRANTS	\$48,000,000.00



APPENDIX – B FORECASTED LOANS

Project Name	
EAST DICKINSON GRAVITY SEWER REPLACEMENT	
2026 WATERMAIN & LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT	
2027 WATERMAIN & LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT	
2028 WATERMAIN & LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT	
2029 WATERMAIN AND LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT	
SIMS ST - 2ND ST E TO 9TH ST E	
2025 WATERMAIN & LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT	
DICKINSON AIRPORT TERMINAL	
WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY UPGRADES	
BALER BUILDING EXPANSION	
FIRE STATION	
FORECASTED LOAN TOTAL	\$65,000,000.00