



January 27, 2025

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

Chairman Weber and members of the committee,

My name is Greg Haug, and I am the Director of the Bismarck Airport. On behalf of the Bismarck Airport, I am providing testimony to express support of SB 2323.

In the past fifteen years, several communities across our state have grown at a rapid pace due to favorable economic conditions. This rapid growth, while great to experience, required a large investment in infrastructure on behalf of the state and its political sub-divisions. Infrastructure built during these times included roads, bridges, storm water, sewer, water treatment plants, public safety centers, schools, and airports. Financially, many political subs had to take on large amounts of debt to accommodate the infrastructure needs of their communities.

SB2323 would offer \$40 million dollars for debt relief to political sub-divisions that were impacted by the rapid growth. This bill would offer much needed financial relief so the political sub-divisions can free up dollars to pay for other critical needs to support their communities, including projects at their airports. Additionally, the way the bill is structured the \$400 million Strategic Investment and Improvement Fund (SIIF) Bucket is reduced so the buckets after the SIIF bucket are not negatively affected. We appreciate this structure as we do not want to see any additional funds placed before the Airport Infrastructure Bucket.

In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony and we respectfully request that this committee offer a "Do Pass" recommendation to SB2323. This bill will help multiple communities reduce debt while not impacting the airport infrastructure Prairie Dog bucket. Any questions can be directed to me at 701-355-1808 or ghaug@bismarcknd.gov

Respectfully,


Greg Haug
Airport Director