



GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER
SB 2066
Senate Industry & Business Committee
Chair Jeff Barta
January 8, 2025

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 **opposition** of Senate Bill 2066.

GNDC recognizes the benefits of Rough Rider Industries and the impacts the program has on reducing recidivism rates and providing job skills training. However, in its current form, this bill enables the state to compete with private businesses.

In our 2024 ND Economics and Employer Survey of our membership, 70% of respondents indicated they were having trouble hiring employees. Labor availability has been identified as the top business concern facing companies in North Dakota and Rough Rider Industries offers a talent pool.

Based on these factors, a study regarding how Rough Rider Industries can be supported by the state in a thoughtful and strategic manner that enables them to expand their mission while working in cooperation, rather than competing, with private industry may be beneficial.

Thank you for your consideration.