

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2376
Senate Judiciary Committee
Feb. 5, 2025

Brandon Bochenski, Mayor
City of Grand Forks, ND

Chairwoman and members of the committee, my name is Brandon Bochenski and I'm the Mayor of Grand Forks, ND. I'm providing this testimony in support of SB 2376.

On Monday, February 3rd the Grand Forks City Council approved a Letter of Intent to work with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa (TMBCI) on a proposed resort and casino to be located just South of the City of Grand Forks West of I-29. On February 4th, the Grand Forks County Commission also approved moving forward with the same Letter of Intent.

This Letter of Intent is an initial agreement with more formal and detailed agreements to come in the future as the proposed development moves forward. In order to move forward, there are numerous federal and state requirements that would take multiple years to satisfy.

From an economic standpoint this is a very attractive to the local community and a great opportunity to bring additional retail and service options that have been declining in recent years.

Upon reviewing the economic impact study from 2022, the city would see more than 70 million in GDP growth and more than 800 new jobs created directly from the resort complex.

The TMBCI owns 146 acres of land in Grand Forks County and we would like to see this development come forward in its best and highest use for the benefit of the community and region.

The City of Grand Forks supports our friends with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and we support a DO PASS on HB 2376.

Respectfully
Brandon Bochenski
Mayor of Grand Forks