

Professional Fire Fighters of North Dakota

Darren Schimke, President | 218-779-4122 | dschimke@wiktel.com

3/6/2025

Senate State and Local Government Committee

Re: Support of HB 1112

Madam Chair Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee.

My name is Darren Schimke, President of the Professional Fire Fighters of North Dakota. I represent 420 professional firefighters throughout the State of North Dakota. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1112.

North Dakota Forest Service Firefighters work in some of the most indescribable conditions for long periods of time. During those times, they are exposed to chemicals that are produced from the burning vegetation. These incidences may also include involved buildings and vehicles/farm equipment. Their short time off is spent mostly outdoors in a camp. Their physical conditioning is truly extraordinary.

Additionally, they work alongside professional and volunteer firefighters during fire incidences and assist with mutual aid requests. The NDFS firefighters provide invaluable training to other firefighters.

The toll that this profession has on the human body can be quick and severe. The NDFS firefighters provide public safety and they deserve to be eligible for membership within the NDPERS Public Safety Defined Benefit Retirement Plan.

The PFFND respectfully requests a Do Pass on HB 1112.

Thank you,

Darren Schimke