



SUMMARY OF COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE LEGACY FUND EARNINGS COMMITTEE

This memorandum provides information on comments submitted to the Legacy Fund Earnings Committee regarding proposed uses of legacy fund earnings. The committee received comments from 118 individuals, including 36 at the November 12-13, 2019, meeting and 82 at the February 19-20, 2020, meeting. The comments are included in the minutes for both meetings. The proposed uses of legacy fund earnings have been organized into the following categories--K-12 education programs, health and human service programs, economic development, infrastructure projects, tax relief programs, and miscellaneous. Some of the comments include multiple proposals, and each proposal is reflected in the relevant category resulting in a total of 172 proposals.

K-12 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

At the November 12-13, 2019, meeting, the committee received seven proposals related to K-12 education programs, as follows:

- Provide a free hot lunch to all public school students in North Dakota with an estimated cost of \$41 million per year (Mr. Jason Boynton, Lunch Aid)
- Establish an early care and education initiative (Mr. Dan Hannaher, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)
- Support schools (Ms. Jay Scott, Fargo)
- Support K-12 education (Mr. Keith Lund, Economic Development Association of North Dakota)
- Continue to support K-12 education (Mr. Ron Gaul, Fargo)
- Expand state initiatives for education (Mr. Murray G. Sagsveen, Chair, Board of Directors, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)
- Support education programs (Mr. Ken Vein, Vice President, City Council, Grand Forks)

At the February 19-20, 2020, meeting, the committee received 13 proposals related to K-12 education programs, as follows:

- Prioritize funding for school districts (Mr. Charles Tuttle, Minot)
- Support education initiatives (Senator Dale Patten, Watford City)
- Provide funding for school districts impacted by oil and gas development activity (Mr. Howard Klug, Mayor, Williston)
- Address the funding needs of K-12 education (Mr. Steve Holen, Superintendent, McKenzie Public School District)
- Support K-12 education (Mr. Brian Wysocki)
- Support teachers and schools, including supplemental salary payments for teachers (Mr. Brandyn Ehlis, Fargo)
- Provide funding for after school programs (Mr. Michael W. Califf, Williston)
- Provide funding for K-12 education (Ms. Heidi Grondahl, Williston)
- Provide funding for free lunches for all North Dakota students (Ms. Danelle Dyke, Minot)
- Support a program to provide free lunches for all North Dakota students (Ms. Jill M. Johnson, Fargo)
- Distribute funding to support education (Mr. Jordon Evert, Williston)

- Provide assistance for K-12 education (Mr. Michael Wenstad)
- Support school district transportation costs (Dr. Sherlock Hirling, Superintendent, Divide County School District)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS

At the November 12-13, 2019, meeting, the committee received 12 proposals related to health and human service programs, as follows:

- Establish a health insurance program for all North Dakota residents who do not already qualify for the federal Medicare program (Mr. Brian Schill, Healthcare NOW: North Dakota)
- Support programs to alleviate homelessness, including programs that provide affordable housing (Mr. Cody J. Schuler, Executive Director, Fargo-Moorhead Coalition to End Homelessness)
- Support food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters (Ms. Melissa Sobolik, President, Great Plains Food Bank)
- Establish a state-funded rental housing assistance program and a human service delivery innovation fund (Mr. Dan Hannaher, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)
- Provide matching grants to charitable organizations for donations received on February 13 of each year, Giving Hearts Day (Mr. Al Carlson, Fargo)
- Provide \$10 million per year to a public health infrastructure fund for vaccines, workforce training, and disease prevention programs (Mr. Mark Strand, Fargo)
- Create a state health insurance program (Ms. Jay Scott, Fargo)
- Expand child care assistance programs (Mr. Samuel Wagner, Casselton)
- Provide financial support for direct service providers who serve in health and human service programs (Mr. Colin Zawaira, Moorhead, MN)
- Develop a social impact bonding program to provide funding to address poverty-related issues (Mr. Thomas Hill, United Way)
- Expand state initiatives for health care (Mr. Murray G. Sagsveen, Chair, Board of Directors, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)
- Support investments in affordable housing (Mr. Ken Vein, Vice President, City Council, Grand Forks)

At the February 19-20, 2020, meeting, the committee received six proposals related to health and human service programs, as follows:

- Provide funding for the Health Occupations Students of America organization and for health care worker recruitment and training programs (Ms. Denise Andress, Western North Dakota Area Health Education Center)
- Provide funding for health care workforce training (Mr. Steve Stenehjelm, Chief Executive Officer, First International Bank)
- Provide funding for health programs (Mr. Jeffrey Jensen, Watford City)
- Provide funding for health care programs (Ms. Dee Shumake, Williston)
- Distribute funding to support health care (Mr. Jordon Evert, Williston)
- Use 20 percent of the earnings to support mental and behavioral health programs (Mr. John Odermann, Dickinson)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

At the November 12-13, 2019, meeting, the committee received 10 proposals related to economic development, as follows:

- Use \$15 million of legacy fund earnings for matching grants to build or expand visitor attractions (Mr. Charley Johnson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau)
- Provide funding for research at the University of North Dakota and North Dakota State University (Mr. Steve Burian, Co-Chair, Valley Prosperity Partnership)

- Create endowments for university staff positions to conduct research related to agriculture and soybeans (Ms. Nancy Johnson, Executive Director, North Dakota Soybean Growers Association)
- Create a legacy zone program based on the existing renaissance zone program (Mr. Tony Grindberg, Commissioner, Fargo)
- Provide funding for wind and solar energy research and development projects (Ms. Jay Scott, Fargo)
- Support investments in wind and solar energy projects (Mr. Samuel Wagner, Casselton)
- Support economic development programs and workforce development programs (Mr. Keith Lund, Economic Development Association of North Dakota)
- Expand state initiatives for workforce development and economic development (Mr. Murray G. Sagsveen, Chair, Board of Directors, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)
- Support investments in workforce development and university research programs (Mr. Ken Vein, Vice President, City Council, Grand Forks)
- Provide funding for the Grand Farm initiative for agriculture research (Dr. William Aderholdt, Program Manager, Grand Farm, Emerging Prairie)

At the February 19-20, 2020, meeting, the committee received 13 proposals related to economic development, as follows:

- Establish a higher education innovation fund to support university research projects and workforce training and establish a higher education stabilization fund to offset any potential budget allotments (Dr. Mark R. Hagerott, Chancellor, North Dakota University System)
- Use \$25 million per biennium to create a destination development fund for grants to develop visitor attractions (Ms. Terri Thiel, Executive Director, Dickinson Convention and Visitors Bureau)
- Provide \$25 million per biennium for a destination development fund for grants to develop visitor attractions (Mr. Doug Bolken, Destination Marketing Association of North Dakota)
- Support a destination development fund for grants to develop visitor attractions (Ms. Amy Kruger, Executive Director, Williston Convention and Visitor Bureau)
- Develop a centralized, statewide workforce development initiative (Ms. Margie Zalk Enerson, Marketing Consultant, Engage to Inspire Marketing)
- Provide funding for research at the University of North Dakota and North Dakota State University (Mr. Steve Burian, Co-Chair, Valley Prosperity Partnership)
- Provide funding for agriculture, energy, and medical research (Mr. Steve Stenehjem, Chief Executive Officer, First International Bank)
- Develop vocational schools for workforce training (Dr. Shelley Lenz, Dickinson)
- Support research and development initiatives (Ms. Vawnita Best, Community Development Director, Watford City)
- Continue to support career and technical education (Mr. Steve Easton, Interim President, Dickinson State University)
- Provide funding for child care programs impacted by oil and gas development activity (Mr. Howard Klug, Mayor, Williston)
- Provide funding for scholarships for oilfield worker training (Mr. Michael W. Califf, Williston)
- Provide funding for workforce development programs and economic development programs (Mr. Shawn Wenko, President, Economic Development Association of North Dakota)

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS

At the November 12-13, 2019, meeting, the committee received 17 proposals related to infrastructure programs, as follows:

- Provide capital assistance to school districts for constructing or renovating school buildings (Ms. Sarah Trustem, Community Relations Coordinator, Dickinson Public Schools)

- Provide funding for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (Mr. Tom Erdmann, Mayor, Carrington)
- Provide a long-term, low-interest rate loan program for water infrastructure projects (Mr. Eric Volk, Executive Director, North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association)
- Establish a public-private transportation network (Mr. Dan Hannaher, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)
- Support park district and state park infrastructure needs (Mr. Jerry Rostad, President, Board of Commissioners, Fargo Park District)
- Provide funding for infrastructure projects, including road and water projects (Mr. Wesley Belter, Fargo)
- Support infrastructure (Ms. Jay Scott, Fargo)
- Provide school construction assistance for school districts levying over 30 mills for sinking and interest purposes (Mr. Levi Bachmeier, Business Manager, West Fargo Public Schools)
- Provide low-interest rate loans to small communities for recreation facilities (Mr. Samuel Wagner, Casselton)
- Support infrastructure development (Mr. Keith Lund, Economic Development Association of North Dakota)
- Provide long-term capital financing to cities for infrastructure projects (Dr. Tim Mahoney, Mayor, Fargo)
- Provide low-interest rate loans for water infrastructure projects by issuing market rate loans from the legacy fund and common schools trust fund for water projects and buying down the interest rates with legacy fund earnings (Mr. Lance Gaebe, Executive Secretary, North Dakota Water Users Association)
- Support local infrastructure development (Mr. Bernie Dardis, Mayor, West Fargo)
- Support small towns and rural communities with funding for water, sewer, and road infrastructure projects (Mr. Dean Elfman, Mayor, Larimore)
- Expand state initiatives for transportation infrastructure (Mr. Murray G. Sagsveen, Chair, Board of Directors, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)
- Support investments in critical infrastructure (Mr. Ken Vein, Vice President, City Council, Grand Forks)
- Provide financial assistance for the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project (Mr. Joel Paulsen, Director, Metro Flood Diversion Authority)

At the February 19-20, 2020, meeting, the committee received 53 proposals related to infrastructure projects, as follows:

- Provide funding for infrastructure (Mr. Steve Stenehjem, Chief Executive Officer, First International Bank)
- Distribute funding for infrastructure development, including school-related infrastructure (Mr. Geoff Simon, Executive Director, Western Dakota Energy Association)
- Provide funding for school construction projects (Dr. Jeff Thake, Superintendent, Williston Public School District)
- Provide support for school construction projects (Ms. Beth Zietz, Superintendent, Williams County School District 8)
- Provide financial support for education infrastructure (Mr. Gary Wilz, Superintendent, Killdeer Public School District)
- Assist local communities with the construction of school facilities (Mr. Keith Harris, Assistant Superintendent, Dickinson Public School District)
- Support for school districts with school construction needs (Mr. Tim Godfrey, Superintendent, Kenmare Public Schools)
- Develop a program to provide grants and loans to counties and townships for road and bridge projects (Ms. Trudy Ruland, Mountrail County Board of Commissioners)
- Support infrastructure initiatives, including roads, water projects, and school buildings (Ms. Vawnta Best, Community Development Director, Watford City)
- Provide funding for school construction projects (Mr. Scott Decker, Mayor, Dickinson)

- Support transportation projects and energy projects (Senator Dale Patten, Watford City)
- Prioritize funding for critical infrastructure projects, particularly in western North Dakota (Mr. Phil Riely, Mayor, Watford City)
- Support grant and loan programs related to small community infrastructure needs (Ms. Lyn James, Mayor, Bowman)
- Address the funding needs for school construction projects (Mr. Steve Holen, Superintendent, McKenzie Public School District)
- Provide support for school construction projects (Dr. Nick Klemisch, Superintendent, Garrison Public School District)
- Provide funding for school infrastructure projects (Ms. Joanna Baltes, President, School Board, Williston Public School District)
- Prioritize state support for school infrastructure projects (Ms. Leslie Bieber, Superintendent, Alexander Public School District)
- Dedicate a percentage of earnings to infrastructure projects (Mr. Tom Mayer, Bismarck)
- Support critical infrastructure and services in cities (Mr. Gary Weisenberger, Mayor, Stanley)
- Provide funding for school construction and road projects (Mr. Arnie Kopp)
- Provide funding for infrastructure (Mr. Jeffrey Jensen, Watford City)
- Support school construction projects (Ms. Samantha Roberts, Williams County)
- Provide assistance for school construction projects (Ms. Maeve MacSteves, Williston)
- Provide funding for education, transportation, and communication infrastructure projects (Mr. Jon and Ms. Eve Stika, Dickinson)
- Use limited funding for one-time infrastructure projects (Mr. Jerry Saude, Bismarck)
- Develop a low-interest revolving loan fund for political subdivision infrastructure projects (Mr. George Kuchynski, Bismarck)
- Provide assistance for school construction projects (Mr. Dan Beyer, Washburn)
- Provide funding for school infrastructure (Ms. Dee Shumake, Williston)
- Support road construction projects, particularly US Highway 85 (Ms. Vonne Tarnavsky, Watford City)
- Support infrastructure projects (Mr. Jared Loveridge)
- Use 20 percent of the legacy fund earnings to establish a revolving loan fund for infrastructure projects (Mr. Roscoe Streyle, Minot)
- Provide funding for natural gas processing and transportation infrastructure projects (Mr. Chris Kreger)
- Provide assistance for school construction projects (Mr. Keith Zahn)
- Provide funding for school infrastructure and road maintenance (Mr. Michael W. Califf, Williston)
- Support for school construction projects (Mr. Bruce Anderson, Williston)
- Support school construction projects and road infrastructure (Mr. Tim Schmidt, Williston)
- Provide funding for school construction projects and health care infrastructure (Ms. Heidi Fick, Williston)
- Provide assistance for school construction projects (Ms. Margot Brunelle)
- Support school construction projects and road construction projects, particularly US Highway 85 (Mr. Jesse Stundal, Williston)
- Distribute funding to support infrastructure projects (Mr. Jordon Evert, Williston)
- Support infrastructure projects and natural gas-related projects (Mr. Darrik Trudell)
- Provide funding for infrastructure projects, including low-interest rate revolving loan programs (Mr. Zachary Gaaskjolen, Western Dakota Energy Association)

- Support infrastructure projects (Mr. Peter F. Hanebutt, Director of Public Policy, North Dakota Farm Bureau)
- Support school construction projects (Mr. Jorge and Ms. Amy Guzman, Dickinson)
- Provide grants and low-interest rate loans for school construction projects (Mr. Rodney Miller, Williston)
- Support school construction projects (Mr. Bruce Brandenburger, Williston)
- Provide low-interest rate loans for school construction projects (Ms. Stephanie Fisher, Williston)
- Distribute funding for school construction projects with 50 percent designated for oil-producing counties, 30 percent for counties adjacent to oil-producing counties, and 20 percent for the remaining non-oil-producing counties (Mr. Floyd Miller, Williston)
- Provide funding for school construction projects (Ms. Marcia and Mr. Sam Haro, Williston)
- Support school construction projects (Mr. Mitch Lundby)
- Use 30 percent of the legacy fund earnings for a low-interest rate revolving loan program related to infrastructure projects (Mr. John Odermann, Dickinson)
- Support road infrastructure projects (Dr. Sherlock Hirning, Superintendent, Divide County School District)
- Provide funding for infrastructure projects (Mr. Shawn Wenko, President, Economic Development Association of North Dakota)

TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS

At the November 12-13, 2019, meeting, the committee received five proposals related to tax relief programs, as follows:

- Do not provide tax reductions (Ms. Landis Larson, President, Secretary and Treasurer, North Dakota AFL-CIO)
- Do not eliminate state income taxes (Mr. Keith Lund, Economic Development Association of North Dakota)
- Do not reduce income tax rates (Mr. Ron Gaul, Fargo)
- Provide funding to eliminate state income taxes and local property taxes and do not support one-time projects (Mr. Jerome Conner, District 33)
- Expand state initiatives for tax relief (Mr. Murray G. Sagsveen, Chair, Board of Directors, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)

At the February 19-20, 2020, meeting, the committee received nine proposals related to tax relief programs, as follows:

- Reduce the property tax burden for local residents (Mr. Gary Wilz, Superintendent, Killdeer Public School District)
- Reduce property taxes (Mr. Scott Decker, Mayor, Dickinson)
- Prioritize funding to reduce the property tax burden (Mr. Charles Tuttle, Minot)
- Support property tax relief (Senator Dale Patten, Watford City)
- Provide property tax relief (Mr. Ron Rolle, Williston)
- Provide funding for property tax relief (Ms. Virginia Dolajak, Bismarck)
- Support property tax relief (Mr. Jared Loveridge)
- Support property tax relief (Mr. Tim Schmidt, Williston)
- Distribute funding to support property tax relief (Mr. Jordon Evert, Williston)

MISCELLANEOUS

At the November 12-13, 2019, meeting, the committee received seven miscellaneous proposals, as follows:

- Use the legacy fund earnings to benefit the working people in North Dakota (Ms. Landis Larson, President, Secretary and Treasurer, North Dakota AFL-CIO)

- Develop a home remodeling loan program through the Bank of North Dakota for individuals with lower credit scores (Mr. Steven Otteson, Fargo)
- Establish disaster mitigation and recovery programs (Mr. Dan Hannaher, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)
- Expand public services to Native Americans (Ms. Jay Scott, Fargo)
- Cover the cost of supplies purchased by teachers (Mr. Samuel Wagner, Casselton)
- Pay North Dakota residents who are at least age 65 \$2,000 per year (Mr. James Thronset)
- Provide interest rate buydowns on student loans through the Bank of North Dakota (Ms. Traci Redlin)

At the February 19-20, 2020, meeting, the committee received 20 miscellaneous proposals, as follows:

- Preserve the legacy fund for future generations by not spending all the earnings and waiting to spend the earnings until after the earnings have been transferred to the general fund (Mr. Dave Weiler, Bismarck)
- Pay dividends to North Dakota residents similar to the Alaska Permanent Fund (Ms. Michelle Stepheus, Cartwright)
- Create a carbon sequestration program and provide paid family leave for all employees (Dr. Shelley Lenz, Dickinson)
- Support transportation projects bonding programs and reinvestment in the legacy fund (Senator Dale Patten, Watford City)
- Provide funding for public parks, trails, and recreation facilities (Mr. Robin Arndt, Supervisor, Watford City Park District)
- Return 75 percent of the earnings to the legacy fund principal and avoid committing the earnings to ongoing programs (Mr. Robert Harms, Bismarck)
- Establish a \$50 million endowment for grants related to art, cultural, and historical projects (Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Planning Committee)
- Develop a state soybean processing plant and a statewide civic leadership center (Ms. Bernice Duletski, Bismarck)
- Support the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library (Mr. Tom Mayer, Bismarck)
- Establish a can and bottle deposit system (Mr. Glenn Pederson)
- Provide funding for public safety personnel (Mr. Jeffrey Jensen, Watford City)
- Establish a reserve fund, reinvest a portion of the earnings in the legacy fund principal, and do not provide payments to North Dakota residents (Mr. Jerry Saude, Bismarck)
- Return 50 percent of the earnings to the legacy fund principal (Mr. Jared Loveridge)
- Reinvest 50 percent of the earnings (Mr. Roscoe Streyle, Minot)
- Provide funding for oil well site reclamation (Mr. Chris Kreger)
- Pay dividends to North Dakota residents and support individual college savings plans (Mr. Terry Kovacevich, Dickinson)
- Provide additional funding to the City of Williston (Ms. Chennille Currier)
- Limit the expenditure of legacy fund earnings to 50 percent (Mr. Peter F. Hanebutt, Director of Public Policy, North Dakota Farm Bureau)
- Return 50 percent of the earnings to the legacy fund principal (Mr. John Odermann, Dickinson)
- Limit the expenditure of legacy fund earnings to 50 percent for the next 20 years and do not provide funding for ongoing programs (Mr. Robert Graham)