

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1185

2005 HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR

HB 1185

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1185

House Industry, Business and Labor Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1-12-05

Tape Number

2

Side A

x

Side B

Meter #

0-12.9

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Keiser: Opened the hearing on HB 1185. All committee members were present.

Representative Froseth: Appeared in support of the bill and provided written testimony (SEE ATTACHED TESTIMONY).

Representative Ruby: Can you give your explanation what the difference is between what it would be after July 31st compared to what it is now?

Representative Froseth: All the stricken language is more than likely in administrative code and placed in the bill 2 years ago, to set up the program and define how the program is suppose to work. I believe someone from ED and F can clarify that but I believe it is in administrative code. The loan portion and the grant portion are 2 separate portions.

Connie Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota League of Cities: If you pass this bill you have an opportunity to make something like, 340 cities potentially happy that is about how many

incorporated cities we have that would qualify for this grant, it was new one session ago, and this would give this program a little more time to become known and to work.

Dean Reese, ND Development Fund: We monitor this program that came into existence 2 sessions ago, we had 3 communities that utilized this program in the last bienium to approximately \$30,000. I guess the one thing in the bill, is there is no \$ amount, we would definitely have enough money to cover it if all communities applied. I think it is a good program for communities, it has definitely worked well. The money comes from the development fund.

Representative Vigesaa: Moved a **DO PASS** motion and **RE-REFER to APPROPRIATIONS.**

Representative Dietrich: **SECOND** the **DO PASS** and Re-refer.

Motion carried. VOTE: 12-YES 0-NO 2-Absent.

Representative Boe will carry bill on floor.

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/07/2005

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1185

1A. State fiscal effect: *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium	
General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues					
Expenditures			\$100,000		\$100,000
Appropriations					

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2. Narrative: *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

The cause of the fiscal impact would be the grants provided by the rural growth incentive grant program. The bill limits the total grants awarded by the department to \$100,000 per biennium and this fiscal note incorporates the assumption that the limit would be reached in each biennium.

The North Dakota Development Fund, considered "other funds", would provide the grants from its own internal funds.

3. State fiscal effect detail: *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. Revenues: *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

B. Expenditures: *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

The recipient rural growth incentive cities would use the grant money received to conduct feasibility studies for the location of a new business.

C. Appropriations: *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

No additional appropriations are contained in the bill.

Name: Dean Reese
Phone Number: 328-5334

Agency: Department of Commerce
Date Prepared: 01/11/2005

Roll Call Vote #: | Date: 1-12-05

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB1185

House

INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken Do Pass & Re-refer to Appropriations

Motion Made By

Rep. Vigesaa

Seconded By

Rep. Dietrich

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
G. Keiser-Chairman	X		Rep. B. Amerman	X	
N. Johnson-Vice Chairman	X		Rep. T. Boe	X	
Rep. D. Clark	X		Rep. M. Ekstrom	A	
Rep. D. Dietrich	X		Rep. E. Thorpe	X	
Rep. M. Dosch	X				
Rep. G. Froseth	X				
Rep. J. Kasper	A				
Rep. D. Nottestad	X				
Rep. D. Ruby	X				
Rep. D. Vigesaa	X				

Total (Yes)

12

No

0

Absent

(2) Ekstrom, & Kasper

Floor Assignment

Rep. Boe

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

2005 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1185

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB1185
Rural Growth Incentive Fund

House Appropriations Full Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 1, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		#9.2 - #14.8
2	X		#0 - #12.4

Committee Clerk Signature

Chris Alexander

Minutes:

Rep. Ken Svedjan, Chairman opened the hearing on HB1185.

Rep. George Keiser the original bill establishing the Rural Growth Incentive Grant Program had a sunset clause in it for July 31, 2005. This bill would remove that sunset clause and allow the program to continue. This program requires a dollar to dollar match from the local community.

Rep. Ken Svedjan, Chairman commented that there is not an appropriation with this bill by the \$100,000 comes from the Development Fund and is this accounted for in the agency's budget?

Rep. George Keiser answered that it is.

Rep. Ken Svedjan, Chairman summarized that this bill makes this a continuing appropriation, they can grant no more than \$100,000 out of this during a biennium and it is intended for Rural Growth purposes and it requires a dollar for dollar match.

Rep. Francis J. Wald asked if the fund was worth it if they could only grant up to \$100,000.

Rep. George Keiser answered that this is limited to cities of 2500 people and it is a challenge to get a match from the local communities but it is being used.

Rep. Jeff Delzer asked if we could get a list to see how many grants they do give out since if we make this a continuing appropriation we'll never see it again and we should check to see how its doing before we give it this kind of life..

Rep. Ron Carlisle asked if the committee gathered this information during their hearing.

Rep. Bob Skarphol commented that this is another example of the continuing appropriations that need to be reported to us so we should add this to the upcoming bill that deals with these.

Rep. Ken Svedjan, Chairman asked if wee needed someone from commerce to come down and explain this to us.

Rep. Ole Aarsvold looking at page 1, lines 17-20, says this is a reoccurring loan program and the ranges of the loan run from \$25,000 to \$75,000, so the loan plus interest would replenish the funds. That makes this a loan program and not a grant program.

Rep. Ken Svedjan, Chairman commented that we would set this aside until someone from commerce can come and explain this to us..

*A recess was taken on this discussion (Meter Tape 1, side A, #14.8)

*The chair reopened discussion on HB1185 (Meter Tape #2, side A, #1.6)

Rep. Ken Svedjan, Chairman summarized that the \$100,000 comes from the development fund within the Office of Commerce.

Mr. Dean Reese from the Office of Commerce, answered that this was correct and that these are the dollars that come back into the development fund through investments.

Rep. Ken Svedjan, Chairman asked what the activity of this fund has been. (meter Tape #2, side A, #2.0)

Mr. Dean Reese answered that the bill is a two part bill. The first part is the loan side that talks about the city that qualifies for the loan needs to have a dollar for dollar match and the second part is the grant side that deals with feasibility studies of the rural communities and their essential services so if those communities want to attract an essential service to their community they could apply for this program on a match of one-to-one up to \$20,000. And the dollar to dollar match is true on both the grant and the loan side. The loan side has limits of \$25,000 - \$75,000, and the grant side has limits of \$20,000. (including the match). As for the activity of the fund, under the feasibility study we have done 4 communities for a total of \$29,030.36 and on the loan side we have given 1 loan for a total of \$30,000.

Rep. Jeff Delzer asked why the \$100,000 needs to be there on a continuing type basis and what happens to the moneys that are not used.

Mr.. Dean Reese answered that the development fund is made up of two funds, the development fund and the rural revolving loan fund. Whatever moneys are not used from these funds can then be used in other community investment projects within the state. (meter Tape #2, side A, #5.1)

Rep. Francis J. Wald asked what would happen if we phased this program out? Would there be additional dollars elsewhere that could be used?

Mr.. Dean Reese answered that there were no other funds available for this and that it is important because there's always going to be the need for gap financing in the rural areas. We only use about a third of the money but it is important for those communities that are working to recruit services to their area to do things like feasibility studies so it is a useful tool to have.

Rep. Ron Carlisle asked if any of the federal programs like Champion Program, and REAP and Rural Development could be used for this.

Mr. Dean Reese answered that he was not sure about these programs and could not answer the question.

Rep. Ole Aarsvold asked if the development fund and the rural revolving fund were often used together so the community would be able to do the feasibility study and get a loan for recruiting purposes as well.

Mr. Dean Reese answered yes.

Rep. Bob Skarphol asked if he understood correctly that because it is a limit of \$100,000 that \$80,000 is eligible to be loaned and \$20,000 is eligible for grants. (meter Tape #2, side A, #7.8)

Mr. Dean Reese answered no, that the amount to be loaned out is determined by the availability funds in the development fund and is no cap on this side. The cap of \$100,000 is just for the grant side for the feasibility studies.

Rep. Ken Svedjan, Chairman summarizes and asked for any further questions.

Rep. Ole Aarsvold moved a Do Pass of HB1185.

Rep. Jeff Delzer seconded.

Rep. Ken Svedjan, Chairman called for a roll call vote on the Do Pass recommendation on HB1185. The motion carried with a vote of 16 yeas, 1 nay, and 6 absent. Rep. Boe from Industry Business and Labor will carry this bill to the house floor.

Rep. Ken Svedjan, Chairman closed discussion on HB1185. (meter Tape #2, side A, #12.0)

Date: **February 1, 2005**
Roll Call Vote #: **1**

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB1185

House Appropriations - Full Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken **DO PASS**

Motion Made By **Rep. Aarsvold** Seconded By **Rep. Delzer**

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. Ken Svedjan, Chairman	X		Rep. Bob Skarphol	AB	
Rep. Mike Timm, Vice Chairman	X		Rep. David Monson	AB	
Rep. Bob Martinson	X		Rep. Eliot Glassheim	X	
Rep. Tom Brusegaard	AB		Rep. Jeff Delzer	X	
Rep. Earl Rennerfeldt	AB		Rep. Chet Pollert	X	
Rep. Francis J. Wald		X	Rep. Larry Bellew	X	
Rep. Ole Aarsvold	X		Rep. Alon C. Wieland	X	
Rep. Pam Gulleeson	AB		Rep. James Kerzman	X	
Rep. Ron Carlisle	X		Rep. Ralph Metcalf	X	
Rep. Keith Kempenich	X				
Rep. Blair Thoreson	AB				
Rep. Joe Kroeber	X				
Rep. Clark Williams	X				
Rep. Al Carlson	X				

Total Yes **16** No **1**

Absent **6**

Floor Assignment **Rep. Boe - IBL**

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

R - IBL - Rep. Keiser

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 1, 2005 1:23 p.m.

Module No: HR-21-1551
Carrier: Boe
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1185: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Svedjan, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(16 YEAS, 1 NAY, 6 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1185 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2005 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

HB 1185

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1185

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 24, 2005

Tape Number

1

Side A

Side B

X

Meter #

1211 - 2531

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Cook opened the hearing on HB 1185 relating to continuation of the rural growth incentive grant program. All committee members (6) present.

Rep. Glen Froseth, District 6, Kenmare, ND introduced HB 1185. (See attachment # 1)

Chairman Cook: Any idea of the type of the three feasibility studies that were done?

Rep. Froseth: No I am not aware of what type they were.

Senator Triplett: Do you have any idea why this program has not been used more?

Rep. Froseth: Not really, I guess it was a new program and I think it takes awhile for programs to be in the system before rural communities are aware of them. The matching grant is only for feasibility studies. That is one of the problems small rural developers have is having a money source. If you have a project that you might be interested in in your community, you probably spend all your money on a feasibility study and if the project does materialize you don't have

anything left to invest in the project. That is the purpose for trying to develop some type of funding for a matching grant program.

Sandy Clark, represents the family members of North Dakota Farm Bureau, testified in support of HB 1185. We think that economic development is certainly an important issue in rural communities and we would like to lend our support to this bill.

Senator Hacker: The rural growth incentive grant program that is just for the cities of twenty five hundred or less, to your knowledge would you have more applicants if you were not so limited to twenty five hundred or less? Are we missing a large piece of the pie here with this?

Sandy Clark: I am not the person to answer that. I would take a guess that there are other programs that are available for larger cities. Small cities are continuing to find ways to be more involved.

Rep. Glen Froseth: I will respond to Senator Hacker's questions. I think there are two hundred seventy some incorporated cities in North Dakota. Of those cities there are only about thirty that have a population over three thousand. So the population in the threshold of twenty five hundred includes about seven tenths of the cities in the state of ND.

Dean Reese, CEO for North Dakota Development Fund answered questions on the bill. Based on the desire to help the rural areas in the twenty five hundred population as they don't have enough money available. Hopefully as economic development spurs in the future, these communities have more options to look at project. I think there will be more and more need for that type of funding as we move forward. We need to let the communities know it is available.

Chairman Cook: Can you answer my question as to what kind of feasibility studies were done.

Page 3

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Bill/Resolution Number HB 1185

Hearing Date February 24, 2005

Dean Reese: There were three. They were marketing feasibility studies to determine whether they could be marketed.

Senator Gary Lee: Can you tell me why it excludes public utilities on page 2 line 2?

Rep. Froseth: The public utility would be like telephone and electrical and that is not a part of your local economic development. This would be beyond the scope of this program.

Senator Dever: Where is the fiscal appropriations?

Dean Reese: The dollars that are provided for this program come directly out of the earning that the fund makes. There is no separate appropriation coming out of the general funds. It is all from earning that are made from the investments.

No further testimony for or against HB 1185.

Chairman Cook closed the hearing on HB 1185.

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1185

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 4, 2005

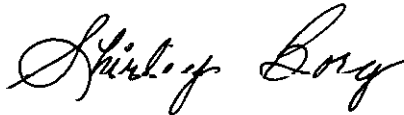
Tape Number
1

Side A
X

Side B

Meter #
3395 - 3875

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Cook opened the discussion on HB 1185. All members (6) present.

Chairman Cook : We heard this bill a couple of weeks ago. It basically removes the sunset on the rural growth incentive grant program. It does have a fiscal effect and we need to send it to appropriations. If you want to refresh yourself, Rep. Froseth's testimony explains it.

Senator Triplett: This is a program that hasn't got used very much yet and they are still hopeful that it could become more useful.

Chairman Cook: I believe by striking out the language "Effective after July 31, 2005", the only difference between July 31, 2005 and what we currently have is we have the ability to offer not just loans but grants that could be used for feasibility studies.

Senator Triplett moved a motion for a Do Pass and Be Rereferred to Appropriations.

Senator Fairfield seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Yes 6 No 0 Absent 0 Carrier: **Senator Fairfield**

Date: 3-4-05
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1185

Senate Political Subdivisions

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken NO Pass and be referred to Appropriation

Motion Made By Senator Triplett Seconded By Senator Fairfield

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Dwight Cook, Chairman	X				
Senator Nicholas P. Hacker, VC	X				
Senator Dick Dever	X				
Senator Gary A. Lee	X				
Senator April Fairfield	X				
Senator Constance Triplett	X				

Total Yes 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Fairfield

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 7, 2005 8:50 a.m.

Module No: SR-41-4244
Carrier: Fairfield
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1185: Political Subdivisions Committee (Sen. Cook, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1185 was rereferred to the Appropriations Committee.

2005 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1135

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1185

Senate Appropriations Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date 03/16/05

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		1709-3590

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes: **Chairman Holmberg** opened hearing of HB 1185.

Rep. Froseth, District 6 appeared in support of HB 1185. Rep. Froseth stated that HB 1185 removes the sunset clause. Rep. Froseth provided the committee with a brief overview of all sections in the bill. Rep. Froseth stated that if the bill passes all the language on page three that is stricken will go away and if the bill fails that will come back into NDCC. The matching grant program has been used by three communities and there is a matching loan application pending. Questions were raised regarding the amount of money a city can apply for, Rep Froseth stated that a community cannot apply for less than \$25,000 and no more than \$75,000 in the matching loan. \$100,000 is the cap for grant money. There would only be ten communities that would be eligible for a grant.

Commie Sprynczynatyk, ND League of Cities appeared in support of HB 1185. Ms.

Sprynczynatyk stated that of the 343 cities that are under 2500 people, two years is not enough time to test this program adequately. She urges the committee for a do pass.

Sen. Grindberg: 2556 There are 343 cities under 2500 residents, should we be doing more to encourage collaborative cooperation regionally?

Ms. Sprynczynatyk: We also promote regional efforts, economically, by tourism, we believe that regions are stronger together. We also recognize that people are moving from smaller communities, this will fight to keep small communities viable.

Sen. Bowman: (3179) isn't it kinda funny, when you shut the schools down, you take away the heart and soul of the town. Then we turn around and try to figure out a way to save it, the end result is that we are not going to save them. We are trying to save a community that is already dead, when we consolidate schools. What is you feeling about that?

Rep. Froseth: I think that when you live in a small community, you try to hang on to everything you have for as long as possible. I agree with you on SB 2333, I plan to vote against it. I understand where you are coming from, we keep loosing our schools, and hence our communities I don't know what kind of answer to give.

A **DO PASS** motion was made by Sen. Grindberg, seconded by Sen. Fischer. Roll call vote was Taken, 15 yea vote were recorded. The bills carrier will be Sen. Fairfield.

Chairman Holmberg closed hearing of HB 1185.

Date

Roll Call Vote #:

3-16-05

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. ~~88~~ 1185

Senate SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken

Do Pass

Motion Made By

G

Seconded By

F

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
CHAIRMAN HOLMBERG	/		SENATOR KRAUTER	/	
VICE CHAIRMAN BOWMAN	/		SENATOR LINDAAS	/	
VICE CHAIRMAN GRINDBERG	/		SENATOR MATHERN	/	
SENATOR ANDRIST	/		SENATOR ROBINSON	/	
SENATOR CHRISTMANN	/		SEN. TALLACKSON	/	
SENATOR FISCHER					
SENATOR KILZER	//				
SENATOR KRINGSTAD	//				
SENATOR SCHOBINGER	/				
SENATOR THANE	/				

Total (Yes)

15
0

No

0

Absent

Floor Assignment

PDS [initials] Fairfield

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 16, 2005 2:00 p.m.

Module No: SR-48-5157
Carrier: Fairfield
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1185: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(15 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1185 was placed on the
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2005 TESTIMONY

HB 1185

Froseth, Glen A.

To: n

Glen Froseth
District 6 Representative
Ph. 385-4811 -- Box 894
Kenmare, ND 58746

Testimony on HB 1185

Chairman Keiser and members of the IBL Committee. For the record I'm Rep. Glen Froseth from Kenmare (District 6) which is a rural legislative District comprised Bottineau County, Renville County and the northern half of Ward County.

HB 1185 relates to the Rural Growth Incentive Program for communities of 2500 or less. If you recall, this program was passed last session in HB 1423, but contains a sunset of July 31, 2005.

HB 1185, before you today, simply removes the sunset, therefore making the Rural Growth Incentive Program a permanent tool for rural economic developers to use.

To refresh our memories on the program please refer to Section 1, paragraph 1, 2, & 3, the rural growth incentive offers communities under 2500 the opportunity to apply for dollar-for-dollar matching loans or grants. Loans are limited to an amount of not less than \$25,000 or more than \$75,000.

Matching grant money is for the purpose of conducting feasibility studies and is limited to \$10,000 with the funding source for grant money being the North Dakota Development fund. Total grants cannot exceed \$100,000 per bi-ennium of N.D. Development fund money.

Although these matching money sources were not used very much during the past two years, I believe this is a program that will become more and more usable by rural community development groups in future years. Since the program went into effect Aug. of 2003, three communities, namely Napoleon, Kulm and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippawa, have utilized the program for matching grants to conduct feasibility studies.

One other community, that being Lansford, has applied for a \$30,000 matching loan.

EDF of the Commerce Department has indicated support of continuing this program and I urge the House IBL committee to consider a favorable Do Pass on HB 1185.

Thank you.

1/7/2005

Attachment #1

Froseth, Glen A.

To: HB1185

Rep. Glen Froseth
District 6
Kenmare, ND 58746

Testimony on HB1185

Chairman Cook and members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee, for the record my name is Rep. Glen Froseth of Kenmare, representing District 6.

HB1185 relates to the Rural Growth Incentive Program for communities of 2500 or less. If you recall, this program was passed last session in HB1423, but contained a sunset of July 31, 2005.

HB1185 before you today, simply removes the sunset, therefore making the Rural Growth Incentive Program a permanent tool for rural economic developers to use.

To refresh our memories on the program please refer to Section 1, Paragraph 1, 2, & 3, the rural growth incentive offers communities under 2500 the opportunity to apply for dollar-for-dollar matching loans or grants. Loans are limited to an amount of not less than \$25,000 or more than \$75,000.

Matching grant money is for the purpose of conducting feasibility studies and is limited to \$10,000 with the funding source being the North Dakota Development fund. Total grants cannot exceed \$100,000 per bi-ennium of N.D. Development Fund money.

Although these matching money sources were not used very much during the past two years, I believe this is a program that will become more and more usable by rural community development groups in future years. Since the program went into effect August of 2003, three communities, namely Napoleon, Kulm and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippawa, have utilized the program for matching grants to conduct feasibility studies.

One other community, that being Lansford, has applied for a \$30,000 matching loan.

EDF of the Commerce Department has indicated support of continuing this program and I urge the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee to consider a favorable Do Pass recommendation on HB1185.

Thank You.

2/23/2005