



January 26, 2021  
House Appropriations  
Rep. Delzer, Chairman  
HB 1159

Chairman Delzer and members of House Appropriations. For the record, Blake Crosby, Executive Director, North Dakota League of Cities.

This biennium we again are reminded how important it is to diversify our economy. We need to continue to move to an economy that does not shudder so greatly when the energy sector and/or the agriculture sector drops.

This bill is really one of economic diversity. I know all of you understand the General Fund and I refer you to my handout. Cities contributed over 57% of sales tax revenue and nearly 21% of total State General Fund revenue from 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2019 through 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2020.

If we want cities to continue this level of support, one way is to provide access to natural gas. Cities need access to this energy source recruit new business, grow new business and in some cases stabilize existing businesses. This is a prudent investment for the State and has a high ROI looking at the sales and use tax data.

The Industrial Commission will be the entity in charge and I trust they will make reasonable decisions on investment of this fund.

I encourage a DO-PASS on HB 1159. I will try to answer any questions. Thank you.