



January 26, 2021

Chair Lefor and Members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee:

EDND represents more than 80 state economic development organizations on the front line of economic development efforts throughout North Dakota. The primary purpose of the organization is to promote the creation of new wealth throughout North Dakota to develop more vibrant communities and improve quality of life. EDND would like to express its opposition to HB 1169.

While EDND agrees with the intent of this bill, to limit competition between government and private industry, we feel the bill could have unintended consequences. Petitions could potentially be filed against state agencies such as the North Dakota Department of Transportation, the North Dakota Department of Commerce, the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency, the Bank of North Dakota, the North Dakota Information Technology Department, and other agencies with which EDND partners. One example could be if a petition was filed against the North Dakota Information Technology Department providing services to the North Dakota University System. This bill could potentially require universities to use a higher-priced option, resulting in higher costs to the system and higher tuition rates for students. There are efficiencies in state agencies working together and using a private company could result in higher costs for North Dakota taxpayers.

Thank you for the opportunity to express EDND's concern about HB 1169.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Greuel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Greuel
Executive Director