



**Senate Appropriations Committee – HB 1431**

**Senator Ray Holmberg, Chair**

**March 31, 2021**

Chairman Holmberg, Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Ritter and I'm President of the Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC. I am here today on behalf of our organization's approximately 1,200 members in support of HB 1431.

There are a number of aspects in HB 1431 that we're supportive of, one specifically being the ability to bond for infrastructure projects. In every corner of the State, there are communities with water, road and other infrastructure needs that could benefit from the additional monies being made available in HB 1431. Coupled with historically low interest rates, there has never been a better time to leverage our State's resources and reinvest in North Dakota via these projects. In addition, doing so will provide opportunities for 'blue collar' and 'white collar' businesses alike to perform the work necessary to put in place that infrastructure. And coming out of the economic slowdown caused by COVID-19, the timing is perfect.

For these reasons, we stand with a number of other organizations and communities from across the State in support of HB 1431.

Respectfully,

Brian Ritter, President

Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC