

# Professional Fire Fighters of North Dakota

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Darren Schimke, President | 218-779-4122 | [dschimke@wikel.com](mailto:dschimke@wikel.com)

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Senate Appropriations Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Darren Schimke, President of the Professional Fire Fighters of North Dakota representing 415 professional firefighters across our great state. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2046.

The NDPERS defined benefit pension plan is an excellent retirement plan and the top choice among participating firefighters across the State. It truly assists with morale, recruitment and retention.

We do realize the importance of decreasing the unfunded liability within the plan as a long-term goal. To accomplish said goal, we also realize the need to increase employer/employee contributions. We believe the best route for increases are in the form of smaller, incremental increases as set forth within SB 2046 with re-evaluation every 2 years in conjunction with the Legislative session and an actuarial report.

With that being said, the PFFND requests your consideration of a Do Pass recommendation of SB 2046 from the Appropriations Committee.

Thank you,

Darren Schimke