JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE - SPECIAL SESSION

Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly

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Bismarck , October 25, 2023

The House convened at 8:30 a.m., with Speaker D. Johnson presiding.

The prayer was offered by Pastor Paul Herr, Century Baptist Church, Bismarck.

The roll was called and all members were present except Representatives Bosch, Dakane, J. Johnson, Nathe, Porter, and Schobinger.

A quorum was declared by the Speaker.

SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL

SB 2393: A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the various divisions under the supervision of the director of the office of management and budget; to create and enact a new subsection to section 54-44-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a facility management operating fund; to amend and reenact sections 54-06-14.7 and 54-21-19, subsection 2 of section 54-52-06.4, and subsection 4 of section 54-52-17 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the state leave sharing program, capitol grounds rent collections, and the law enforcement retirement program; to provide for a transfer; to provide an exemption; to provide a report; to provide for a retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

ROLL CALL

The question being on the final passage of the bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 82 YEAS, 7 NAYS, 0 EXCUSED, 5 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING.

YEAS: Anderson, B.; Anderson, D.; Anderson, K.; Bahl; Beltz; Boschee; Brandenburg; Christy; Conmy; Cory; Dakane; Davis; Dobervich; Dockter; Dyk; Fegley; Finley-DeVille; Fisher; Frelich; Grueneich; Hager; Hagert; Hanson; Hatlestad; Headland; Heinert; Holle; Hoverson; Ista; Jonas; Karls; Kasper; Kempenich; Kiefert; Klemin; Koppelman; Kreidt; Lefor; Longmuir; Louser; Marschall; Martinson; McLeod; Meier; Mitskog; Mock; Monson; Motschenbacher; Murphy; Nelson; Novak; O'Brien; Olson, J.; Olson, S.; Ostlie; Prichard; Pyle; Richter; Rios; Roers Jones; Rohr; Ruby, D.; Ruby, M.; Sanford; Satrom; Schauer; Schneider; Schreiber-Beck; Steiner; Stemen; Strinden; Swiontek; Thomas; Timmons; Toman; Tveit; Vetter; Vigesaa; Wagner; Warrey; Weisz; Speaker Johnson, D.

NAYS: Bellew; Christensen; Hauck; Heilman; Henderson; Schatz; VanWinkle

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: Bosch; Johnson, J.; Nathe; Porter; Schobinger

Engrossed SB 2393 passed.

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SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL

SB 2394: A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the office of the governor for salaries and wages; to provide an appropriation to the adjutant general for 2021-23 snow removal grants; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

ROLL CALL

The question being on the final passage of the bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 89 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 EXCUSED, 5 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING.

YEAS: Anderson, B.; Anderson, D.; Anderson, K.; Bahl; Bellew; Beltz; Boschee; Brandenburg; Christensen; Christy; Conmy; Cory; Dakane; Davis; Dobervich; Dockter; Dyk; Fegley; Finley-DeVille; Fisher; Frelich; Grueneich; Hager; Hagert; Hanson; Hatlestad; Hauck; Headland; Heilman; Heinert; Henderson; Holle; Hoverson; Ista; Jonas; Karls; Kasper; Kempenich; Kiefert; Klemin; Koppelman; Kreidt; Lefor; Longmuir; Louser; Marschall; Martinson; McLeod; Meier; Mitskog; Mock; Monson; Motschenbacher; Murphy; Nelson; Novak; O'Brien; Olson, J.; Olson, S.; Ostlie; Prichard; Pyle; Richter; Rios; Roers Jones; Rohr; Ruby, D.; Ruby, M.; Sanford; Satrom; Schatz; Schauer; Schneider; Schreiber-Beck; Steiner; Stemen; Strinden; Swiontek; Thomas; Timmons; Toman; Tveit; VanWinkle; Vetter; Vigesaa; Wagner; Warrey; Weisz; Speaker Johnson, D.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: Bosch; Johnson, J.; Nathe; Porter; Schobinger

Engrossed SB 2394 passed.

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SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL

SB 2395: A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of environmental quality and the department of labor and human rights for administrative expenses for boards and committees; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

ROLL CALL

The question being on the final passage of the bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 87 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 EXCUSED, 5 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING.

YEAS: Anderson, B.; Anderson, D.; Anderson, K.; Bahl; Beltz; Boschee; Brandenburg; Christensen; Christy; Conmy; Cory; Dakane; Davis; Dobervich; Dockter; Dyk; Fegley; Finley-DeVille; Fisher; Frelich; Grueneich; Hager; Hagert; Hanson; Hatlestad; Hauck; Headland; Heilman; Heinert; Henderson; Holle; Hoverson; Ista; Jonas; Karls; Kasper; Kempenich; Kiefert; Klemin; Koppelman; Kreidt; Lefor; Longmuir; Louser; Marschall; Martinson; McLeod; Meier; Mitskog; Mock; Monson; Motschenbacher; Murphy; Nelson; Novak; O'Brien; Olson, J.; Olson, S.; Ostlie; Prichard; Pyle; Richter; Rios; Roers Jones; Rohr; Ruby, D.; Ruby, M.; Sanford; Satrom; Schauer; Schneider; Schreiber-Beck; Steiner; Stemen; Strinden; Swiontek; Thomas; Timmons; Toman; Tveit; VanWinkle; Vetter; Vigesaa; Wagner; Warrey; Weisz; Speaker Johnson, D.

NAYS: Bellew; Schatz

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: Bosch; Johnson, J.; Nathe; Porter; Schobinger

SB 2395 passed.

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SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL

SB 2396: A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 19-03.1-22.6 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a special penalty for death or injury through distribution of illegal drugs; to provide a penalty; and to provide an effective date.

ROLL CALL

The question being on the final passage of the bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 89 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 EXCUSED, 5 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING.

YEAS: Anderson, B.; Anderson, D.; Anderson, K.; Bahl; Bellew; Beltz; Boschee; Brandenburg; Christensen; Christy; Conmy; Cory; Dakane; Davis; Dobervich; Dockter; Dyk; Fegley; Finley-DeVille; Fisher; Frelich; Grueneich; Hager; Hagert; Hanson; Hatlestad; Hauck; Headland; Heilman; Heinert; Henderson; Holle; Hoverson; Ista; Jonas; Karls; Kasper; Kempenich; Kiefert; Klemin; Koppelman; Kreidt; Lefor; Longmuir; Louser; Marschall; Martinson; McLeod; Meier; Mitskog;

Mock; Monson; Motschenbacher; Murphy; Nelson; Novak; O'Brien; Olson, J.; Olson, S.; Ostlie; Prichard; Pyle; Richter; Rios; Roers Jones; Rohr; Ruby, D.; Ruby, M.; Sanford; Satrom; Schatz; Schauer; Schneider; Schreiber-Beck; Steiner; Stemen; Strinden; Swiontek; Thomas; Timmons; Toman; Tveit; VanWinkle; Vetter; Vigesaa; Wagner; Warrey; Weisz; Speaker Johnson, D.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: Bosch; Johnson, J.; Nathe; Porter; Schobinger

SB 2396 passed.

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SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL

SB 2397: A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 8 of section 61-16.1-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to joint water resource boards; to repeal section 5 of Senate Bill No. 2020, as approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, relating to a transfer of Bank of North Dakota profits to the water infrastructure revolving loan fund; to provide for a transfer; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

ROLL CALL

The question being on the final passage of the bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 87 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 EXCUSED, 5 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING.

YEAS: Anderson, B.; Anderson, D.; Anderson, K.; Bahl; Beltz; Boschee; Brandenburg; Christy; Conmy; Cory; Dakane; Davis; Dobervich; Dockter; Dyk; Fegley; Finley-DeVille; Fisher; Frelich; Grueneich; Hager; Hagert; Hanson; Hatlestad; Hauck; Headland; Heilman; Heinert; Henderson; Holle; Hoverson; Ista; Jonas; Karls; Kasper; Kempenich; Kiefert; Klemin; Koppelman; Kreidt; Lefor; Longmuir; Louser; Marschall; Martinson; McLeod; Meier; Mitskog; Mock; Monson; Motschenbacher; Murphy; Nelson; Novak; O'Brien; Olson, J.; Olson, S.; Ostlie; Prichard; Pyle; Richter; Rios; Roers Jones; Rohr; Ruby, D.; Ruby, M.; Sanford; Satrom; Schatz; Schauer; Schneider; Schreiber-Beck; Steiner; Stemen; Strinden; Swiontek; Thomas; Timmons; Toman; Tveit; VanWinkle; Vetter; Vigesaa; Wagner; Warrey; Weisz; Speaker Johnson, D.

NAYS: Bellew; Christensen

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: Bosch; Johnson, J.; Nathe; Porter; Schobinger

SB 2397 passed.

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SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL

SB 2398: A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15.1-27-04.1, 15.1-36-02, and 15.1-36-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to baseline funding and the determination of state school aid, loans from the coal development trust fund, and evidences of indebtedness; to provide an appropriation; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

ROLL CALL

The question being on the final passage of the bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 85 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 0 EXCUSED, 5 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING.

YEAS: Anderson, B.; Anderson, D.; Anderson, K.; Bahl; Bellew; Beltz; Boschee; Brandenburg; Christy; Conmy; Cory; Dakane; Davis; Dobervich; Dockter; Dyk; Fegley; Finley-DeVille; Fisher; Frelich; Grueneich; Hager; Hagert; Hanson; Hatlestad; Hauck; Headland; Heilman; Heinert; Henderson; Holle; Ista; Jonas; Karls; Kasper; Kempenich; Kiefert; Klemin; Koppelman; Kreidt; Lefor; Longmuir; Louser; Marschall; Martinson; McLeod; Meier; Mitskog; Mock; Monson; Motschenbacher; Murphy; Nelson; Novak; O'Brien; Olson, J.; Olson, S.; Ostlie; Prichard; Pyle; Richter; Rios; Roers Jones; Rohr; Ruby, D.; Ruby, M.; Sanford; Satrom; Schauer; Schneider;

Schreiber-Beck; Steiner; Stemen; Strinden; Swiontek; Thomas; Timmons; Toman; Tveit; Vetter; Vigesaa; Wagner; Warrey; Weisz; Speaker Johnson, D.

NAYS: Christensen; Hoverson; Schatz; VanWinkle

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: Bosch; Johnson, J.; Nathe; Porter; Schobinger

SB 2398 passed.

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SECOND READING OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SCR 4021: A concurrent resolution affirming support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel.

REQUEST

REP. K. ANDERSON REQUESTED a recorded roll call vote on the adoption of SCR 4021, which request was granted.

ROLL CALL

The question being on the final adoption of the resolution, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS. The roll was called and there were 83 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 0 EXCUSED, 5 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING.

YEAS: Anderson, B.; Anderson, D.; Anderson, K.; Bahl; Bellew; Beltz; Boschee; Brandenburg; Christy; Conmy; Cory; Dobervich; Dockter; Dyk; Fegley; Fisher; Frelich; Grueneich; Hager; Hagert; Hanson; Hatlestad; Hauck; Headland; Heilman; Heinert; Holle; Ista; Jonas; Karls; Kasper; Kempenich; Kiefert; Klemin; Koppelman; Kreidt; Lefor; Longmuir; Louser; Marschall; Martinson; McLeod; Meier; Mitskog; Mock; Monson; Motschenbacher; Murphy; Nelson; Novak; O'Brien; Olson, J.; Olson, S.; Ostlie; Prichard; Pyle; Richter; Rios; Roers Jones; Rohr; Ruby, D.; Ruby, M.; Sanford; Satrom; Schatz; Schauer; Schneider; Schreiber-Beck; Steiner; Stemen; Strinden; Swiontek; Thomas; Timmons; Toman; Tveit; VanWinkle; Vetter; Vigesaa; Wagner; Warrey; Weisz; Speaker Johnson, D.

NAYS: Christensen; Dakane; Davis; Finley-DeVille; Henderson; Hoverson

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: Bosch; Johnson, J.; Nathe; Porter; Schobinger

SCR 4021 was declared adopted on a recorded roll call vote.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

SPEAKER D. JOHNSON ANNOUNCED House will stand in recess.

THE HOUSE RECONVENED pursuant to recess taken, with Speaker D. Johnson presiding.

REMARKS OF MAJORITY LEADER LEFOR

Ladies and gentlemen of the House of Representatives, it is with a great deal of gratitude, that I rise to talk about what has happened in the past thirty days.

Since the court ruling and without a stay to provide more time to address the ruling, this assembly was tasked with moving forward with legislation in a very short time frame to make sure there would be no interruption to state government and specifically the Office of Management and Budget.

With deep gratitude, to Legislative Council, management, and clerks, I thank you for your hard work and long hours. In my life, I have never seen a better run organization than that of the North Dakota Legislative Council.

You were tasked with a difficult undertaking under immense pressure. But you delivered for the people of North Dakota. You worked together as a team, and I cannot thank you enough. From the date of the ruling, legislative leaders from both parties worked closely with Legislative Council and the executive branch to follow the provisions of the ruling to reenact

SB 2015.

Another thank you to the members of the Legislative Management committee who was tasked with a difficult job of wading through potential legislation for this session. And to Chair Vigesaa and Chair Thomas and members of your committees you did outstanding work in getting these bills into the best shape they can be in a very short period of time.

In any legislative session, special or not, we ask ourselves one important question: DO OUR ACTIONS HELP GROW THIS STATE?

And even during this short period of time together, the answer is a resounding yes.

We reaffirmed a fertilizer plant incentive to assist our ag industry to enhance fertilizer production. On the books right now, is a one-to-two-billion-dollar fertilizer plant to be built in North Dakota that will help our farmers and farmers throughout the country.

We have had a robust discussion about additional tax relief which will provide a roadmap to our interim tax committees to continue the discussion to provide more tax relief to our citizens.

We reaffirmed our commitments to improve access to behavioral health specialists in western North Dakota.

We approved legislation to help offset inflation for the on-going development of career and tech academies which provide educational opportunities for our growing workforce.

We gave approval to BSC to privately raise $8.5 million for an athletic facility on their campus.

In his message, the governor pointed out this state ranks second in providing the best infrastructure for our citizens. This is due to the continued investment by the people of North Dakota and this Legislative Assembly.

Additionally, we continue to provide a healthy environment for business development, safe communities, career opportunities, lower taxes, and less regulations.

This state is in great shape financially due to prudent budgeting and smart decisions made by the people of North Dakota and this citizen legislature.

This includes a budget stabilization fund, common schools trust fund, legacy fund and more.

These funds lower the cost of government to our taxpayers by providing earnings to help pay the bills.

A sincere thank you to our front desk for having the intelligence, experience, great attitude, and a strong work ethic to make this session go smoothly.

Thank you Ellen Letang who makes my life a lot easier by keeping me in line, on time and on task.

I have always had a great deal of confidence in the Legislative Assembly to deal with the challenges in front of us. This session is yet another example of the dedicated public servants who serve in this chamber.

Ladies and gentlemen of the assembly, we live in a growing, thriving state but we can do even better, and we will.

Thank you for all for your hard work, you stepped up to the plate and got the job done. I am honored to serve as the majority leader and as your colleague and your friend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REMARKS OF MINORITY LEADER ISTA

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you did during our regular session, you have presided over

this special session with fairness, transparency, and good humor. As it happens, there currently exists a high-profile job opening in Washington, DC, for a person with your unique skills and experience. I would be proud to lend my bipartisan support should a different House of Representatives require your services as Speaker.

I am sure Leader Lefor would agree that it has been a whirlwind month for the Legislative Assembly. From the moment the Supreme Court issued its opinion invalidating our former OMB bill, we entered an unprecedented period, awash with questions that needed quick and accurate answers. During that period, I was grateful for the steady leadership of John Bjornson, Emily Thompson, Allen Knudson, and their dedicated staff in Legislative Council. Quite literally, we could not have executed this special session without them. Thank you all for the long, unexpected hours and your invaluable service to the State of North Dakota.

While this special session was unexpected, it was necessary. The Supreme Court filled its constitutional role as a check on our coequal branch of government, reminding all of us what the state constitution requires of each of us. While the specific issue this time was the single-subject rule, the Court's opinion should also highlight the broader guiding principles under which we must operate: transparency, participation, and procedural fairness.

Going forward abiding by the Court's ruling may seem like more work for this Assembly. Indeed, it may be more work. But that work is what our constitution requires and what our citizens deserve. And we have shown this week that we can do the work efficiently and effectively if we act with discipline and rigor. Thank you to our Legislative Management Committee for keeping this special session focused and limited. Thank you to Chair Thomas and Chair Vigesaa for completing your committee work in a streamlined but open process. And thank you to all members of this chamber for the restraint with which you approached the task at hand. Let us learn a lesson from this week: that if we avoid distractions and stay laser-focused on the issues that truly matter to our constituents, we can make good public policy and make it without waste or undue delay.

As we look ahead to the 2025 session, we know we will have important issues to tackle, perhaps none more important than our ongoing workforce crisis. It will be incumbent upon us to find creative solutions to this problem. While taxes are one important consideration for workers, we know families in today's economy look beyond just that single issue. That's why investments in childcare, healthcare, education, and housing must continue to be prominent in our workforce conversation. Indeed, we have already seen promising proposals in many of these areas in bill drafts prepared by some of you for consideration during this special session. I encourage you to continue your work on these proposals. And when we reconvene in 2025, my caucus will be ready, as always, to work with anyone in this Assembly as governing partners to move our great state forward.

With that, Mr. Speaker, Leader Lefor, and my House colleagues, I wish you well as fall turns to winter—regrettably, it appears, sooner than any of us would like. Thank you again for your service to this wonderful state.

MOTION

REP. LOUSER MOVED that a committee of three be appointed to notify the Senate that the House has completed its business and is about to adjourn, which motion prevailed.

THE SPEAKER APPOINTED Representatives K. Anderson, Jonas, and Dakane.

MOTION

REP. LOUSER MOVED that a committee of three be appointed to notify the Governor that the House has completed its business and is about to adjourn, which motion prevailed.

THE SPEAKER APPOINTED Representatives D. Ruby, Timmons, and Schneider.

REQUEST

REP. D. RUBY REQUESTED that the committee appointed to notify the Governor that the House has completed its business and is about to adjourn be discharged, as the committee had completed its task, which request was granted.

REQUEST

REP. K. ANDERSON REQUESTED that the committee appointed to notify the Senate that the House has completed its business and is about to adjourn be discharged, as the

committee had completed its task, which request was granted.

MESSAGE TO THE SENATE FROM THE HOUSE (BUELL J. REICH, CHIEF CLERK)
MADAM PRESIDENT: The House has passed, unchanged: SB 2393, SB 2394, SB 2395, SB 2396, SB 2397, SB 2398.

MESSAGE TO THE SENATE FROM THE HOUSE (BUELL J. REICH, CHIEF CLERK)
MADAM PRESIDENT: The House has passed, unchanged: SCR 4021.

MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE FROM THE SENATE (SHANDA MORGAN, SECRETARY)
MR. SPEAKER: The Senate has passed, unchanged: HB 1541, HB 1542, HB 1543, HB 1544, HB 1545, HB 1546, HB 1547, HB 1548.

MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE FROM THE SENATE (SHANDA MORGAN, SECRETARY)
MR. SPEAKER: The Senate has failed to pass, unchanged: HB 1549.

MESSAGE TO THE SENATE FROM THE HOUSE (BUELL J. REICH, CHIEF CLERK)
MADAM PRESIDENT: Your signature is respectfully requested on: HB 1541, HB 1542, HB 1543, HB 1544, HB 1545, HB 1546, HB 1547, HB 1548.

MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE FROM THE SENATE (SHANDA MORGAN, SECRETARY)
MR. SPEAKER: Your signature is respectfully requested on: SB 2393, SB 2394, SB 2395, SB 2396, SB 2397, SB 2398.

MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE FROM THE SENATE (SHANDA MORGAN, SECRETARY)
MR. SPEAKER: Your signature is respectfully requested on: SCR 4021.

MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE FROM THE SENATE (SHANDA MORGAN, SECRETARY)
MR. SPEAKER: The President has signed: HB 1541, HB 1542, HB 1543, HB 1544, HB 1545, HB 1546, HB 1547, HB 1548.

MESSAGE TO THE SENATE FROM THE HOUSE (BUELL J. REICH, CHIEF CLERK)
MADAM PRESIDENT: The Speaker has signed: HB 1541, HB 1542, HB 1543, HB 1544, HB 1545, HB 1546, HB 1547, HB 1548.

MESSAGE TO THE SENATE FROM THE HOUSE (BUELL J. REICH, CHIEF CLERK)
MADAM PRESIDENT: The Speaker has signed: SB 2393, SB 2394, SB 2395, SB 2396, SB 2397, SB 2398.

MESSAGE TO THE SENATE FROM THE HOUSE (BUELL J. REICH, CHIEF CLERK)
MADAM PRESIDENT: The Speaker has signed: SCR 4021.

MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE FROM THE SENATE (SHANDA MORGAN, SECRETARY)
MR. SPEAKER: The President has signed: SB 2393, SB 2394, SB 2395, SB 2396, SB 2397, SB 2398.

MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE FROM THE SENATE (SHANDA MORGAN, SECRETARY)
MR. SPEAKER: The President has signed: SCR 4021.

DELIVERY OF ENROLLED BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
The following bills were delivered to the Governor for approval on October 25, 2023: HB 1541, HB 1542, HB 1543, HB 1544, HB 1545, HB 1546, HB 1547, HB 1548.

COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNOR DOUG BURGUM
This is to inform you that on October 25, 2023, I have signed the following: HB 1541, HB 1542, HB 1543, HB 1545, HB 1546, and HB 1548.

COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNOR DOUG BURGUM
This is to inform you that on October 25, 2023, I have signed the following: HB 1547.

COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNOR DOUG BURGUM
Pursuant to Article V, Section 9 of the North Dakota Constitution, I have signed House Bill 1544 and filed it with the Secretary of State. I also have vetoed Section 2 of HB 1544.

The North Dakota Development Fund Inc. (NDDF) was created by the Legislature in 1991 to

provide flexible gap financing through loans and equity investments not available from most conventional lenders for the purpose of economic development in North Dakota. Any request of $150,000 or more must be reviewed and approved by the NDDF Board of Directors.

Section 2 of HB 1544 creates an extra, unnecessary layer of red tape and bureaucracy by requiring the NDDF to obtain a recommendation for approval from the state's Clean Sustainable Energy Authority before providing financing for projects that enhance production of clean sustainable energy in North Dakota. This redundant hurdle will delay investments in North Dakota projects that have the potential to benefit our citizens and our state's economy.

With time to analyze and implement this policy change since it was approved last spring, we've determined that the desired benefits can be achieved, and the costs of this red tape can be eliminated, through mutual collaboration between NDDF and CSEA. We will work with the North Dakota Industrial Commission, which approves CSEA projects, and NDDF to ensure the respective boards have visibility and clarity of each other's processes and to ensure the most efficient and effective deployment of taxpayer dollars without slowing down projects in red tape.

For the reasons stated above, Section 2 of HB 1544 is vetoed.

MOTION

REP. LOUSER MOVED that the absent members to excused, which motion prevailed.

MOTION

REP. LOUSER MOVED that the House be on the Fourth, Fifth, Fifteenth, and Sixteenth orders of business and at the conclusion of those orders, the House stand adjourned sine die which motion prevailed.

The House stood adjourned pursuant to Representative Louser's motion.

Buell J. Reich, Chief Clerk