



## Cass County Information Technology

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### TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2016

House Appropriations – Government Operations Division  
March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Chairman Vigesaa and members of the Committee:

My name is Bob Henderson, Director of Information Technology for Cass County. I also serve as the Chair of the North Dakota IIJA Cyber Security Taskforce. I am here **in support of Senate Bill 2016**.

Cyber Security is an ever-growing need for aspects of the State of North Dakota, both public and private. While we have continuously made great strides forward on this, threat actors are making equivalent strides at the same time. Due to this, it is imperative that we maintain and support constant growth to continue protecting the operations and citizens of North Dakota.

Through the IIJA Cyber Security grant, we can support our cities, counties, schools, tribal governments, and state resources with much needed funding to meet these ever-growing needs. Over **2 million dollars** are in the process of being obligated to local jurisdictions throughout the state to solve immediate needs in their cyber security postures. These funds are providing an unprecedented opportunity to solve cyber security concerns facing our state.

This grant was announced **on September 16, 2022** well after the budget process had been completed for many jurisdictions. Due to this, local jurisdictions did not have the opportunity to budget for any potential local matches required by this grant. For many, this match (equaling 10% of the funds delivered) will be an impediment on delivery of services if awarded. Due to this, having the state absorb this expense not only ensures these funds will be delivered where they are most needed, but that every agency can participate equally.

As stated by many, North Dakota is unique in the fact that all of our networks, across our entire state, are connected. What makes one of us more secure, makes all of us more secure. We truly are one team with one goal, protecting North Dakota.

Chairman Vigesaa and members of the Committee, I thank you for your time and attention on this matter, and encourage you to **support** this bill.

Sincerely,

Bob Henderson  
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