

**North Dakota House of Representatives**  
**House Appropriations Committee**  
**Chairman Don Vigesaa**

By: Tom Ross  
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**In support of SB 2240**

Chairman Vigesaa and members of the House Appropriations Committee: My name is Tom Ross and I am the Mayor of the City of Minot. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on behalf of my community and in support of SB 2240.

Minot Air Force Base plays an important role in our nation's national security as home to two of the three legs of the nuclear triad. But Minot AFB is also a major partner with the City of Minot and the State of North Dakota, and is vital to the future growth and success of our community and our state.

Minot AFB brings highly skilled professionals to our state, fuels the local and regional economies, and has consistently lived up to the motto that "only the best come north." Minot is home to 26 B-52 bombers with the 5th Bomb Wing as well as 150 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) sites as part of the 91st Missile Wing. At the City of Minot, we have spent years investing in ourselves by funding base retention efforts through Team Minot on Task Force 21. We will continue to do so because it is in the best interest of Minot and all of North Dakota. Minot AFB's success is our success.

In preparation for the coming multi-billion-dollar Sentinel Modernization Project, the City of Minot is making major investments to prepare for the influx of additional activity, employees, and new families to our community and our state. We're conducting a housing study and community planning efforts to prepare for the thousands of new residents the Sentinel project is expected to bring to Minot. SB2240 will undoubtedly help the State Commerce Department aid our mission in making Minot a place for Air Force Base personnel to proudly call home for many years to come.

We appreciate the previous funding from the Legislature, and we hope you continue to find value in supporting Minot Air Force Base as it modernizes and grows to become an even more important piece to the security of our great nation.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. Mr. Chairman and committee members, I ask you to join us in prioritizing our friends at Minot Air Force Base by recommending a "Do Pass" on SB2240.

