



1 HB 1185

2 Testimony in support

3 Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education committee, my name is Dr.
4 Aimee Copas and I am the Executive Director for the North Dakota Council of
5 Educational Leaders representing school leaders across North Dakota.

6 I come to you today in support for HB 1185. This bill expands the availability of the coal
7 development trust fund for school construction projects to support our schools and
8 property taxpayers who have voter approved projects recently that have been subjected
9 to the immense inflationary impact resulting from a myriad of circumstances, most
10 recently federal decisions that have impacted our economy. Sadly, because of that, we
11 have communities and taxpayers in North Dakota that are paying the price. School
12 leaders in these communities have adjusted and made cuts to original plans and still 16-
13 25% inflationary hits have made an incredibly difficult reality in many of our
14 communities.

15 This bill would provide much need relief. Relief in the form of low interest loans and
16 grants is one of the easiest ways to provide property tax relief in our communities that
17 need it the most – those growing communities that are in a position where they must
18 build. The dollars put into efforts as this bill outlines as well as others you will hear
19 regarding loan interest rate buydown for school construction loans is an incredibly
20 responsible way to provide property tax relief. It is not an expenditure of general fund
21 or legacy fund dollars it is an INVESTMENT. All the dollars appropriated into this effort
22 will be repaid. We encourage support for this concept and your school leaders who are

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for all students in North Dakota.*

Executive Director: Aimee Copas-----Government Lead and Special Projects: Kevin Hoherz



- 1 strongly in support of conservative investments into communities to keep taxes lower
- 2 encourage you to consider these points as you make decisions on this bill.

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