



City of Watford City

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House Finance and Taxation

January 16, 2023 – 11:00 AM

City of Watford City testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1266

Chairman Headland and Finance and Taxation committee members:

The city of Watford stands with the bill sponsors, the League of Cities, and downtown development associations throughout North Dakota in support of HB 1266. In 2015, Watford City inadvertently allowed its Renaissance Zone to expire. After the dust of the Bakken rush settled and adequate staff was onboarded to begin working on downtown redevelopment, we learned that Watford City had lost its renaissance zone designation. Under the current language of NDCC 40-63-03, there is not a mechanism to reestablish the designation.

Watford City asks that you establish the proposed addition of 40-63-03.1(f)(2) and the other included amendments in HB 1266. As Central Business District buildings and infrastructure continue to age, RZ 2.0 will be an important downtown redevelopment tool for Watford City and other North Dakota cities.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of my testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 1266.**

Best Regards,

Mayor Phil Riley

Mayor Phil Riley, Watford City

Cc: Deputy Commission Kessel, ND Department of Commerce
Executive Director Gardner, North Dakota League of Cities