

February 3, 2023

House Finance and Taxation Committee
Chairman Craig Headland
4950 92nd Avenue SE
Montpelier, ND 58472-9630

Honorable Chairman Headland:

The Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation (GFMEDC) is writing to affirm our support for HB-1455 which would create a sales tax exemption for biologic materials used in research and manufacturing processes by bioscience and biotechnology firms.

As a regional economic development organization, we are tightly focused on industries that hold great promise for the state's economic future, strengthen the composition of local industry clusters, and support continued economic diversification. The bioscience industry, with its vast applications, tops countless economic development priority lists across the nation.

In consultation with experts in the bioscience industry, we understand that our contemporaries, in places like Wisconsin and Texas, are using policies like HB-1455 to make their regions more attractive to innovators and businesses deciding where to locate and grow their biotechnology companies. Policies like HB-1455 would not only put us on more even footing with other states in attracting biotech firms but would also strengthen the global competitiveness of companies that are already here.

We have much momentum in this space with world class research capabilities and talent production from NDSU and UND; powerful capital access programs for technology innovators through LIFT, PACE, and North Dakota Development Fund; and major ecosystem anchors like Aldevron that are already attracting other biotech partners and collaborators to relocate to be near them. In recent years, the GFMEDC has seen increased interest from biotech and medical device companies from other states with several new firms locating here over the last few years.

We believe strongly in the potential of the biotechnology industry to become a future driver of North Dakota's economy and to create a lasting impact to the state and urge your support HB-1455 as you consider this important public policy.

Sincerely,



Ryan Aasheim
Chief Business Development Officer