



FMWF Chamber Support for HB 1499

02/07/2023

Chairman Louser and members of the House Industry Business and Labor Committee:

For the record, my name is Katherine Grindberg, and I have the pleasure of serving as the Executive Vice President of the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo (FMWF) Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's mission is to be a catalyst for economic growth and prosperity for businesses, members, and the greater community. On behalf of our over 1,900 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of House Bill 1499.

Every state across the United States is competing to attract, develop, and retain workforce, hoping to fill thousands of open jobs. In order for our state to effectively compete on a global scale for workforce, we must identify innovative and multi-pronged solutions to address this crisis. For example, we know that one of the major underlying challenges to workforce shortages is access to affordable housing for workers. In order to effectively address this issue holistically, we must address the multiple underlying issues that exist, like housing.

House Bill 1499 does exactly that by expanding opportunities and incentivizing workforce to remain in the state or relocate from another area to North Dakota. Simply put, this bill would make home ownership more affordable across the state by helping reduce interest rates during times of rapid inflation and increasing Federal interest rates. This bill would create an additional tool to enhance the recruitment and retention efforts taking place across the state. This program, in conjunction with many of the other workforce proposals, is critical to addressing this complex workforce issue.

On behalf of our members, I would like to thank committee members for their time this morning and would urge a DO PASS recommendation on House Bill 1499.

Respectfully,

Katherine Grindberg
Executive Vice President
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