



Roosevelt Custer
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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**Testimony of Joshua Buchmann, Chairman
Roosevelt Custer Regional Council
In Support of HB 1018 with an Amendment
March 9, 2023**

Senator Wanzek and members of the Committee

My name is Joshua Buchmann, Chairman for Roosevelt Custer Regional Council in Region 8.

On behalf of our region, I'm asking you to **support an amendment to HB 1018 for \$8 million to support regional councils across the state (\$1 million per region)**. We serve the counties of Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Hettinger, Stark, Golden Valley, and Slope with a collective population of more than 46,000.

Rural support is necessary across our state. In our region, we face similar challenges as the rest of the state with workforce, housing, and childcare but we are also seeing many communities facing outmigration and population decline. Our rural communities would benefit greatly from added professional support in securing funding, providing resources, and leadership to help combat population decline.

Roosevelt Custer is determined to lead a regional approach for economic and community development. We have a significant opportunity to support workforce development with the addition of the CTE Center in Dickinson, increase tourism opportunities across the whole region with the addition of the TR Library, and help with initiatives that can be used region wide for housing, childcare, and workforce.

Regional Councils are the best boots on the ground support for our regions. We would greatly appreciate your support on this amendment.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if I can answer any additional questions.