



**Testimony of Teran Doerr, President  
Economic Development Association of North Dakota  
In Support of HB 1018  
March 2, 2023**

Chairman Bekkedahl and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

I am Teran Doerr, executive director of Bowman County Economic Development Corporation and current president of the Economic Development Association of North Dakota (EDND). I want to express our support for HB 1018.

EDND represents more than 80 state economic development organizations on the front line of economic development efforts throughout North Dakota. The organization's primary purpose is to support the creation of new wealth and the diversification of North Dakota's economy.

EDND has a long-standing and complementary relationship with the Department of Commerce. They are a premier partner providing valuable tools, programs and resources for the economic developers in our state.

This strong partnership with the state helps us recruit and retain new and expanding businesses locally, train North Dakota's workforce, and compete in national and international markets. We also rely on the Commerce Department to help local entrepreneurs explore potential opportunities and diversify the state's economy.

While EDND is supportive of the continuation of all Commerce programs, we want to take this opportunity to specifically express our support for a few key initiatives in this bill, including funding for **Automation Workforce Training and Equipment Grants, North Dakota Development Fund, Tourism Destination Development Initiative, Rural Workforce Housing Grants, Operation Intern, and uncrewed aircraft systems**, to list a few.

Because of these critical programs and what Commerce does for communities of all sizes, we would like to support HB 1018. Thank you for your consideration.