



Roosevelt Custer
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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**Testimony of Teran Doerr, Executive Director
Roosevelt Custer Regional Council
In Support of HB 1018 with an Amendment
March 1, 2023**

Senator Bekkedahl and members of the Appropriations Committee

My name is Teran Doerr, Executive Director for Roosevelt Custer Regional Council in Region 8. We serve the counties of Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Hettinger, Stark, Golden Valley, and Slope with a collective population of more than 46,000.

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.**

Support for this amendment is critical to the future of rural communities across North Dakota. Each region is facing unique challenges and opportunities for growth but without additional resources to implement strategies most of our rural communities have no capacity to access funding let alone implement the projects. While we serve the same population base as our larger communities, our rural areas lack the population density and revenue to support the staff to provide economic and community development services. Regional Council's across the state serve these areas to the best of our abilities with limited resources and across large geographic areas.

Increased funding would:

- Increase capacity in rural communities for implementation of programs and strategies
- Create more regional partnerships to address shared challenges
- Address workforce challenges, childcare, increase access to resources, and help facilitate community growth in our rural communities

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