

**North Dakota Senate  
Appropriations Committee  
Chairman Brad Bekkedahl**

By: Tom Ross  
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**In Support of SB 2240**

Chairman Bekkedahl and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, my name is Tom Ross and I am the Mayor of the City of Minot. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on behalf of my community.

The Minot Air Force base is an important piece of the nation's national security as a home of two of the three legs of the nuclear triad. But beyond that heavy burden, MAFB is also a major piece of the City of Minot and the State of North Dakota. It brings in highly skilled, trained, and professional employees into the state, bolsters the local and regional economy, and has lived up to the motto that "only the best come north."

Minot is the home of 26 B-52 bombers with the 5<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing as well as 150 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) sites as part of the 91<sup>st</sup> Missile Wing. For years, Minot has put its money where its mouth is in helping to fund base retention efforts with Team Minot on Task Force 21. We will continue to do so.

I ask you, Mr. Chairman, and committee members, to prioritize our friends of Minot Air Force base by voting in favor of recommending a "Do Pass" on SB2240. The City of Minot is making major investments to prepare our community for the coming Sentinel Modernization Project and the influx of additional activity, employees, and new families to our state. We've begun a housing study and community planning efforts to prepare for the thousands of new residents the Sentinel project is expected to bring in. SB2240 will undoubtedly help the State Commerce Department aid our mission in making Minot a proud place for the Air Force Base to call home for many more years to come.

We appreciate the previous funding from the Legislature in the past. We hope you continue to find the value in supporting the Minot Air Force Base as it modernizes and grows to become an even more important piece to the security of the nation.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.