



TO: House Appropriations
FROM: City of Watford City
DATE: April 7, 2025
RE: **SUPPORT of SB 2225 and to provide for a suggested amendment**

Dear Chairman Vigesaa, Vice-Chairman Kempenich and members of the House Appropriations:

My name is Vawnita Best, Community & Business Development Director for the City of Watford City. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony, to stand in support of SB 2225, and to REQUEST your consideration for an amendment:

1. On page 2, after line 26:
 - a. Add Section 1.8 – The department of commerce shall consider qualifying existing residential lots provided that they:
 - i. Meet all HOME program requirements for residential infrastructure, and
 - ii. HOME grant funding (with a 1:2 match) is allocated **ONLY AFTER** a certificate of occupancy is issued for a newly constructed home on a HOME program accepted lot.

By allowing the lookback, this program has the potential to incentivize builders to build on lots where streets, sidewalks, curb, gutter, and sewer already exist.

In Watford City's situation, if the \$13,000 to \$19,000 in state grant funding IS ENOUGH incentive to spur vertical construction, North Dakota gets a new rooftop. If the \$13,000 to \$19,000 ISN'T ENOUGH of an incentive to create a new rooftop, the state isn't obligated to provide the grant funds.

I encourage the committee not to lose focus of the goal of ROOFTOP CREATION across North Dakota and also to remember the need for housing across the entire state.

Again, Chairman Vigesaa, Vice-Chairman Kempenich and members of House Appropriations, thank you for the opportunity to stand in support of SB 2225 and to suggest an amendment that will:

1. Provide for and accelerate rooftop creation in North Dakota
2. Provide opportunity for all communities in North Dakota in need of housing infrastructure to utilize the proposed HOME grant program

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Vawnita Best", is written over a horizontal line.

Vawnita Best, Community & Business Development Director, City of Watford City

vbtest@nd.gov | (701) 580-1862