

Mike Dunn

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February 3, 2025

RE: HB 1524 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-40.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the funding of regional planning councils; and to provide an appropriation

Chairman Headland and members of the committee,

I am writing in support of HB 1524. Based on my personal experience, increased support to regional councils is very worthwhile and the direct impacts are noticeable.

From 2010 to 2021 or so I personally served on the Red River Regional Council's Advisory Board and Board of Directors. It was amazing to me to witness the direct impact that the organization made to the counties it served. Dozens of small businesses utilized the consulting, guidance, and loan programs administered through the RRRC. The RRRC and the other Region Councils across the State are true catalysts for economic development.

In just one example of direct impact and success of regional councils, this winter, you do not have to look very hard to see thousands of people making their way to Frost Fire Ski area in rural Walhalla. The year-round activity of that initiative is truly impressive. Thank you Pembina Gorge Foundation!

Additionally, in the early 2000's our company utilized a loan program through the RRRC as part of the financing package when we built our corporate office west of Grand Forks.

I urge you to issue a "Do Pass" on HB 1524

Sincerely,

Mike Dunn