



**Testimony of Adrienne Olson in support of HB 1524
To the House Finance and Taxation Committee
February 4, 2025**

Rep. Headland and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee.

My name is Adrienne Olson, Community and Economic Development Director in Casselton, ND. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 1524.

Casselton is a steadily growing community which has experienced significant business growth over the last 10 years. We have recently opened two new developments that hold space for hundreds of families and potentially dozens more businesses.

Casselton has the benefit of a full-time economic development position and an established Jobs Development Authority. Professional, experienced support from Lake Agassiz Regional Development Council is a guiding hand for our city staff and volunteer citizens making decisions with lasting impacts. LARDC connects Casselton to funding opportunities and planning resources.

Casselton has 40 units of subsidized housing under the ownership of Cass County Housing Authority. The Authority has initiated the process to allow it to put the housing up for sale, potentially displacing the current residents. The Lake Agassiz team has been at the table with our community to guide us to a best-case outcome and bring potential partners into the conversation.

Casselton is preparing for a complete underground infrastructure overhaul in its downtown Central Business District in 2026. The Lake Agassiz team has already begun to look for funding assistance for the project that could lower the special assessment burden on our residents.

Casselton consistently relies on its relationship and the support it receives from our regional economic development council.

In closing, I urge you to support this critical funding bill for Regional Councils statewide. This funding is, in my estimation, one of the most direct and effective ways to support rural North Dakota communities.

Adrienne Olson
EconDev@Casselton.org
701-809-9444