

To: Chairman Warrey, Members of the House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee

From: Reed Johnson, legal intern, North Dakota office of the governor

Re: SB 2396 Testimony

Date: 3/11/2025

Chairman Warrey, Members of the House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee,

Hello, my name is Reed Johnson, and I am a legal intern with the governor's office. I am here to provide neutral testimony today on Senate Bill 2396, which provides for an independent, third-party audit of the commerce department and the North Dakota Development Fund (NDDF). The governor ran on a promise of transparency in state government, and he would welcome independent or internal audits of any state executive agencies. This bill authorizes the legislative management committee to contract with an out-of-state and independent third party to audit the department of commerce and the North Dakota Development Fund from 2020 to 2024 by examining the internal policies, procedures, and results of the commerce department during that same time. As written, the governor's office does not have pause or concern about the ends or means by which the bill seeks to accomplish this audit. Thank you for your time, and I stand for any questions.