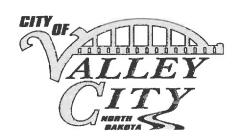
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January 30, 2025

Chairman Porter and Committer Members:

My name is Gwen Crawford, City Administrator for the City of Valley City. I am writing this testimony in support of HB 1577, a bill to create a wastewater infrastructure grant program. The proposed grant would cover up to 60 percent of the renewal or extension of wastewater projects.

Communities like Valley City are continually challenged with maintaining aging infrastructure, including water, sanitary sewer and streets. In addition, there is the demand to grow and extend these services as residential, commercial and industrial growth requires.

Funding sources exist for our transportation systems and water infrastructure; however, there are currently no grant opportunities available in the State for wastewater infrastructure to minimize the financial impacts to our communities.

The Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program proposed in HB 1577 will provide much needed funding for communities to renew and develop our wastewater infrastructure. This is similar to the North Dakota Department of Water Resources Municipal Water Grants for water projects and the grant funds provided through the North Dakota Department of Transportation for our street projects. These grants will help keep projects affordable for our taxpayers as we continue to see rising construction costs.

The City of Valley City supports HB 1577 and asks that you and your fellow colleagues do the same.

Respectfully,

Gwen Crawferd City Administrator Valley City, ND