



## **TESTIMONY SUPPORTING SB 2218**

*Doug Nelson, State Fire Marshal*

House Political Subdivisions Committee

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Good afternoon, Chairman Longmuir and members of the Committee. My name is Doug Nelson, I am the State Fire Marshal, and I stand before you today in support for SB 2218.

To provide some context, the Insurance Commissioner's office allocates \$2.4 million biennially to the North Dakota Firefighters Association (NDFA) through the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund, as outlined in section 18-03-07. These funds are crucial in helping the NDFA fulfill its important mission of strengthening the state's fire services. Specifically, the NDFA plays a key role in developing and implementing a statewide fire education and training plan. They coordinate training at all levels to ensure that firefighters across North Dakota receive consistent, high-quality education. In addition, the NDFA oversees the certification process for firefighter training, ensuring that professional standards are maintained, and that safety is prioritized throughout the state.

A critical component of the NDFA's ability to carry out these responsibilities is having the proper infrastructure. The funds provided by SB 2218 will enable the NDFA to secure a permanent facility, which will not only support their current operations but also allow for future expansion as needed.

The Insurance Department along with the State Fire Marshal's Office fully supports the allocation of these funds from the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund or (SIIF) and would like to note that there will be no additional administrative burdens or complications in managing this one-time funding to help the NDFA acquire a new building and offset associated costs.

Chairman Longmuir and members of the Committee, I respectfully request your favorable consideration and a Do Pass recommendation for SB 2218 and your continued support of the fire service.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.