

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1577

Chairman Patten, Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Matt Voltz, and I am the Finance Director for the City of Horace. I am here to testify in support of House Bill 1577, which has been needed in the State of North Dakota for many years. The State does a great job with low interest loan programs for water and wastewater projects, which we have utilized in the past, but grants for wastewater projects are needed.

Horace is experiencing a period of rapid growth, as many of you know. With that growth comes the critical need to develop and upgrade our wastewater infrastructure to meet current and future demands. Our former Mayor, Kory Peterson, spearheaded the *Flush to Fargo* project, which sends a portion of our wastewater to Fargo for treatment, and we're thankful for the different avenues of funding we were able to procure for it. The time has come to complete that project with a new phase, and if House Bill 1577 were to pass, we could apply for a grant to assist with the funding. The anticipated cost for this project exceeds \$6 million.

This project is only one example of the significant investments required to maintain and expand wastewater infrastructure for cities and entities of all sizes. However, the financial burden of such projects is substantial. Grant programs reduce dependency on special assessments as a funding mechanism and allow the state and local jurisdictions invest back into our communities.

The City of Horace asks that you support House Bill 1577 and provide a Do Pass recommendation, as it is instrumental in helping cities like Horace build the necessary infrastructure to support our growing populations while safeguarding public health.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Matt Voltz

Finance Director

City of Horace