



## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE LEGACY FUND EARNINGS COMMITTEE**

This memorandum provides information on comments submitted to the Legacy Fund Earnings Committee regarding proposed uses of legacy fund earnings. The committee received comments from 36 individuals, which are included in the minutes of the November 12-13, 2019, meeting. The proposed uses of legacy fund earnings have been organized into the following categories--K-12 education programs, health and human service programs, economic development, infrastructure projects, tax relief programs, and miscellaneous. Some of the comments include multiple proposals, and each proposal is reflected in the relevant category resulting in a total of 58 proposals.

### **K-12 EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

The committee received 7 proposals related to K-12 education programs, as follows:

- Provide a free hot lunch to all public school students in North Dakota with an estimated cost of \$41 million per year (Mr. Jason Boynton, Lunch Aid)
- Establish an early care and education initiative (Mr. Dan Hannaher, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)
- Support schools (Ms. Jay Scott, Fargo)
- Support K-12 education (Mr. Keith Lund, Economic Development Association of North Dakota)
- Continue to support K-12 education (Mr. Ron Gaul, Fargo)
- Expand state initiatives for education (Mr. Murray G. Sagsveen, Chair, Board of Directors, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)
- Support education programs (Mr. Ken Vein, Vice President, City Council, Grand Forks)

### **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS**

The committee received 12 proposals related to health and human service programs, as follows:

- Establish a health insurance program for all North Dakota residents who do not already qualify for the federal Medicare program (Mr. Brian Schill, Healthcare NOW: North Dakota)
- Support programs to alleviate homelessness, including programs that provide affordable housing (Mr. Cody J. Schuler, Executive Director, Fargo-Moorhead Coalition to End Homelessness)
- Support food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters (Ms. Melissa Sobolik, President, Great Plains Food Bank)
- Establish a state-funded rental housing assistance program and a human service delivery innovation fund (Mr. Dan Hannaher, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)
- Provide matching grants to charitable organizations for donations received on February 13 of each year, Giving Hearts Day (Mr. Al Carlson, Fargo)
- Provide \$10 million per year to a public health infrastructure fund for vaccines, workforce training, and disease prevention programs (Mr. Mark Strand, Fargo)
- Create a state health insurance program (Ms. Jay Scott, Fargo)
- Expand child care assistance programs (Mr. Samuel Wagner, Casselton)
- Provide financial support for direct service providers who serve in health and human service programs (Mr. Colin Zawaira, Moorhead, MN)
- Develop a social impact bonding program to provide funding to address poverty-related issues (Mr. Thomas Hill, United Way)

- Expand state initiatives for health care (Mr. Murray G. Sagsveen, Chair, Board of Directors, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)
- Support investments in affordable housing (Mr. Ken Vein, Vice President, City Council, Grand Forks)

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The committee received 10 proposals related to economic development, as follows:

- Use \$15 million of legacy fund earnings for matching grants to build or expand visitor attractions (Mr. Charley Johnson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau)
- Provide funding for research at the University of North Dakota and North Dakota State University (Mr. Steve Burian, Co-Chair, Valley Prosperity Partnership)
- Create endowments for university staff positions to conduct research related to agriculture and soybeans (Ms. Nancy Johnson, Executive Director, North Dakota Soybean Growers Association)
- Create a legacy zone program based on the existing renaissance zone program (Mr. Tony Grindberg, Commissioner, Fargo)
- Provide funding for wind and solar energy research and development projects (Ms. Jay Scott, Fargo)
- Support investments in wind and solar energy projects (Mr. Samuel Wagner, Casselton)
- Support economic development programs and workforce development programs (Mr. Keith Lund, Economic Development Association of North Dakota)
- Expand state initiatives for workforce development and economic development (Mr. Murray G. Sagsveen, Chair, Board of Directors, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)
- Support investments in workforce development and university research programs (Mr. Ken Vein, Vice President, City Council, Grand Forks)
- Provide funding for the Grand Farm initiative for agriculture research (Dr. William Aderholdt, Program Manager, Grand Farm, Emerging Prairie)

### **INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS**

The committee received 17 proposals related to economic development, as follows:

- Provide capital assistance to school districts for constructing or renovating school buildings (Ms. Sarah Trustem, Community Relations Coordinator, Dickinson Public Schools)
- Provide funding for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (Mr. Tom Erdmann, Mayor, Carrington)
- Provide a long-term, low-interest rate loan program for water infrastructure projects (Mr. Eric Volk, Executive Director, North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association)
- Establish a public-private transportation network (Mr. Dan Hannaher, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)
- Support park district and state park infrastructure needs (Mr. Jerry Rostad, President, Board of Commissioners, Fargo Park District)
- Provide funding for infrastructure projects, including road and water projects (Mr. Wesley Belter, Fargo)
- Support infrastructure (Ms. Jay Scott, Fargo)
- Provide school construction assistance for school districts levying over 30 mills for sinking and interest purposes (Mr. Levi Bachmeier, Business Manager, West Fargo Public Schools)
- Provide low-interest rate loans to small communities for recreation facilities (Mr. Samuel Wagner, Casselton)
- Support infrastructure development (Mr. Keith Lund, Economic Development Association of North Dakota)
- Provide long-term capital financing to cities for infrastructure projects (Dr. Tim Mahoney, Mayor, Fargo)
- Provide low-interest rate loans for water infrastructure projects by issuing market rate loans from the legacy fund and common schools trust fund for water projects and buying down the interest rates with legacy fund earnings (Mr. Lance Gaebe, Executive Secretary, North Dakota Water Users Association)

- Support local infrastructure development (Mr. Bernie Dardis, Mayor, West Fargo)
- Support small towns and rural communities with funding for water, sewer, and road infrastructure projects (Mr. Dean Elfman, Mayor, Larimore)
- Expand state initiatives for transportation infrastructure (Mr. Murray G. Sagsveen, Chair, Board of Directors, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)
- Support investments in critical infrastructure (Mr. Ken Vein, Vice President, City Council, Grand Forks)
- Provide financial assistance for the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project (Mr. Joel Paulsen, Director, Metro Flood Diversion Authority)

### **TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS**

The committee received 5 proposals related to tax relief programs, as follows:

- Do not provide tax reductions (Ms. Landis Larson, President, Secretary and Treasurer, North Dakota AFL-CIO)
- Do not eliminate state income taxes (Mr. Keith Lund, Economic Development Association of North Dakota)
- Do not reduce income tax rates (Mr. Ron Gaul, Fargo)
- Provide funding to eliminate state income taxes and local property taxes and do not support one-time projects (Mr. Jerome Conner, District 33)
- Expand state initiatives for tax relief (Mr. Murray G. Sagsveen, Chair, Board of Directors, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

The committee received 7 miscellaneous proposals, as follows:

- Use the legacy fund earnings to benefit the working people in North Dakota (Ms. Landis Larson, President, Secretary and Treasurer, North Dakota AFL-CIO)
- Develop a home remodeling loan program through the Bank of North Dakota for individuals with lower credit scores (Mr. Steven Otteson, Fargo)
- Establish disaster mitigation and recovery programs (Mr. Dan Hannaher, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)
- Expand public services to Native Americans (Ms. Jay Scott, Fargo)
- Cover the cost of supplies purchased by teachers (Mr. Samuel Wagner, Casselton)
- Pay North Dakota residents who are at least age 65 \$2,000 per year (Mr. James Thronset)
- Provide interest rate buydowns on student loans through the Bank of North Dakota (Ms. Traci Redlin)