

TESTIMONY



FEBRUARY 7, 2023

HB 1499 HOUSE IB&L COMMITTEE

Chairman Louser and members of the committee:

My name is Jeff Sattler and I'm the president of North Dakota Association of Builders. NDAB represents our state's homebuilding industry with 1500 members across North Dakota. We stand in support of HB 1499.

HB 1499 recognizes the importance of state government's role in the effort to improve housing affordability so that it may attract and employ workers within the community in which they live and work. NDAB believes that the homebuilding industry is essential in a growing and vibrant state economy like North Dakota. Owning a home is a part of the American dream; and our work ensures that North Dakotans have access to safe, decent and affordable housing.

Now that said, providing affordable housing has gotten exceedingly harder in the last 5 years. According to NAHB, prices of lumber products in recent years have caused the average price of a new single-family home to increase by more than \$14,000. Furthermore, permits in the urban areas of the state are down by 30% from a year ago. Anything we can do to make home construction and homeownership more attainable and more affordable is a priority for the homebuilding industry.

Thank you, for the opportunity to voice our support. We ask that you give HB 1499 a "do pass" recommendation. I'll take any questions you may have.