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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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Dan Mahli  
Community Development Administrator  
200 3<sup>RD</sup> Street North  
Fargo, ND 58102

Dear Dan,

I strongly endorse and support the efforts and the proposal of the City of Fargo and the City's assembled team for the Georgetown University Energy Prize. The team itself is composed of an impressive array of public and private partners representing various stakeholders in the community, including the incredible resources and expertise made available by North Dakota State University. Fargo is one of the fastest growing small cities in the United States, has progressive leadership in both the public and private sectors, has developed the necessary collaborative relationships to make this project successful, and provides a completely unique set of temperature and weather challenges in which to implement and test energy efficiency initiatives.

The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) recently ranked North Dakota dead last in their energy efficiency scorecard. In addition, while North Dakota ratepayers enjoy some of the lowest electricity rates per kilowatt hour in the nation, residential bills tend to be above average due to our weather and lack of overall energy efficiency measures in place. While the majority of our North Dakota utilities, including our co-ops, continue to work on energy efficiency initiatives, there is no coherent statewide strategy or plan in place to encourage efficiency innovation or implementation across the state. The proposal being put forward by the Fargo team has the potential to not only put the City of Fargo on the path towards greater energy efficiency education and implementation, but to hopefully replicate this program in communities large and small throughout the entire state.

I continue to advocate for a greater emphasis and attention to energy efficiency innovation and implementation at the national level through federal initiatives and programming, and I see the efforts of the Fargo group as a perfect complement to my efforts in the United States Senate and vice-versa. Local and state-level energy efficiency programs are oftentimes the best incubators and testing grounds for innovative ideas on how to reduce our energy consumption and more efficiently and effectively use a vast array of tools to accomplish stated energy efficiency goals. I am certain that the Fargo proposal will contribute greatly to the national discourse on how to successfully develop and implement energy efficiency programs at the local level.

I look forward to continue working with the City of Fargo and their assembled project team to see that this project goes forward and is successfully implemented. Ultimately, I believe that the Fargo energy efficiency proposal will serve as a model for communities throughout the state of North Dakota and in other states that experience similar weather conditions and climate conditions. Many, if not all, of the initiatives in the proposal could also serve as models for future federal legislation to implement similar programs at the national level.

Sincerely,



Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senate

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