



NORTH DAKOTA RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION

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**Testimony of Ron Merritt, President of the North Dakota Recreation & Park Association
To Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations
Regarding Concession Bidding
Tuesday, April 6, 2010**

Chairman Potter and Members of the Committee, my name is Ron Merritt, and I am president of the North Dakota Recreation & Park Association (NDRPA) and director of the Minot Park District. NDRPA represents almost 500 members across the state, including park board members and park district staff, and works to advance parks and recreation for quality of life in North Dakota. I am here on behalf of NDRPA to ask the Commission to consider submitting legislation to change the current concession bidding requirements found in North Dakota Century Code 48-09.

Current law requires political subdivisions as well as the state to bid out all concession contracts for cafes, restaurants and confectionaries on public buildings and grounds worth more than \$500. The concession bidding process requires advertisement in the legal newspaper for three weeks. In comparison, the bidding requirements for a \$500 concession are much more extensive than they are for other park district contracts, which must be bid out if the contract exceeds \$25,000, and then only require advertisement for two weeks. Further, the same bid advertising requirement that is in place for a \$500 concession contract is also in place for a \$100,000 public improvement project.

Current law places a significant administrative burden on park districts for low-value concession contracts, and the concession amount has not been increased in more than 20 years. Therefore, NDRPA asks for the Commission's consideration in working with NDRPA to submit a bill to the 62nd Legislative Assembly to change the current concession bidding requirements.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.

