



February 1, 2021

Hon. Jeff Delzer
House Appropriations Committee
North Dakota Legislature
600 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505

Re: Support for House Bill 1431

Dear Chairman Delzer and Committee Members,

On behalf of Microsoft, I am writing to you today to express our support for House Bill 1431. This bill would provide the funding necessary to advance the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project, protecting the region from extreme flooding.

As one of the state's largest employers, Microsoft is committed to North Dakota and the Fargo-Moorhead region. More than 1,600 individuals are assigned to Microsoft's Fargo campus, making it one of our largest campuses in the world. In 2019 we donated more than \$4.8 million in cash, software, and services to more than 577 North Dakota non-profit organizations. Additionally, in 2020 Microsoft Fargo employees volunteered more than 14,600 hours.

Like much of the Fargo-Moorhead-West Fargo region, the land surrounding Microsoft's campus is prone to flooding during the natural annual melting cycle that swells the Red River as it flows to Canada. This flooding creates hazardous conditions that prevents employees from driving across the region, disrupting their lives and threatening their safety. We agree with the solution envisioned by the Fargo-Moorhead Area Flood Diversion Task Force - a series of flood control and diversion options that would protect the region extreme flooding and enable the region's continued economic growth.

Countless hours have been spent securing Federal and Minnesota state funds for the FM Diversion project, and a commitment from Fargo and Cass County voters to pay a share of the project through a sales tax. We ask for your help and support enabling this mechanism to continue providing North Dakota's funding for the project.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandi C. Piatz".

Sandi Piatz
Site Leader, Fargo Campus
Microsoft Corporation