***INSTRUCTIONS: If you don’t know your legislative district, look it up*** [***HERE***](https://www.legis.nd.gov/lcn/assembly/constituentViews/public/findmylegislator.htm)***. Then click on the individual names to get contact information for your legislators. You can either mail or email your message. A template for a message is below, please edit as you need to, and copy and paste into the body of an email or word doc, and send from your personal email address or drop in the mail! Thank you!***

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_ / or Dear Representative \_\_\_\_

As an individual who has worked with and seen the impacts of the ND Small Business Development Centers (ND SBDC), I urge you to increase the state’s funding support of this incredibly impactful program. This nationally accredited program provides invaluable, no-cost business advising to small businesses all around the state and is influential in the growth of business and economic success in our state and local communities.

[*DESCRIBE THE SCOPE OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE SBDC,* [*name the center* Small Business Development Center *OR the advisor* at the ND Small Business Development Center program] *, and THE SPECIFIC IMPACTS THAT YOU HAVE SEEN*]

The ND SBDC provides support to businesses in many ways. They give guidance on developing business plans and financial projections, providing accurate and comprehensive industry data, creating marketing strategies, obtaining financing, planning for a transition in business ownership, enhancing websites and e-commerce, assessing cybersecurity issues, and much more. These efforts result in strong small business ecosystems in local communities and helps to create jobs and economic growth in our state.

The ND SBDC provided assistance to close to 2,500 unique clients in 2023. The small businesses they worked with obtained nearly $83 million in capital for starting and expanding their companies. The program also created, retained, and supported more than 15,000 jobs in North Dakota in the last 5 years.

Now more than ever, our state needs programs like the ND SBDC that provide no-cost advising and resources for our businesses as we continue to diversify our state’s economy. Small businesses are the foundation of communities large and small, and the success of our state’s top industries depends on this foundation to attract growth. Financial investment in the ND SBDC program results in meaningful jobs, a healthier and more resilient small-business sector, and thriving communities, all supporting the overall North Dakota economy. Please support small business owners, local communities, and economic growth around our great state by proposing and approving increased funding for the ND SBDC program allocated within the Bank of North Dakota budget.

Sincerely,

[*YOUR NAME AND CONTACT INFO*]