***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 into a word doc, and send from your personal email address or send off in the mail! Thank you!***

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

As a small business owner who has received direct assistance from [*name the center* Small Business Development Center *OR the advisor* at the ND Small Business Development Center program], I urge you to increase the state’s funding support of the ND SBDC. This nationally accredited program provides invaluable, no-cost business advising to small businesses all around the state and has been influential in helping build and/or grow my business.

[*DESCRIBE BRIEFLY YOUR BUSINESS, and THE SPECIFIC HELP YOUR SBDC PROVIDED TO YOU*]

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.

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 build ourselves up. Small businesses are the foundation of our communities large and small. 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 like me, as I support my local community, and contribute to the success of this 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*]