

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
March 5, 2020 - 10:30 a.m. – Room 327E

North Dakota Department of Transportation
Chad M. Orn, P.E., Director of Project Development

SB 2111

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am Chad Orn, Director of Project Development for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT).

Senate Bill 2111 is being introduced by the Department of Transportation and would allow the director to lease space on department owned radio towers or department owned land the towers are located on to public or private entities. Funds acquired from the lease agreements would be deposited into the State Highway Fund.

In working with the industry, SB 2111 as presented, is the bill that was amended by the Senate Transportation Committee after we came to a consensus on the language. The DOT supports the amended bill.

Since 1962, the DOT has constructed and operated a highway maintenance radio network, using state highway maintenance funds (NDCC 24-03-22). Currently, the DOT maintains 45 radio sites throughout the state. Each site has two, complete separate VHF (very high frequency) radio networks, one used by the DOT for daily operations on the state highway system and the other operated by the Department of Emergency Services 911 services operated by the Division of State Radio.

For years, the DOT has allowed both federal and state public safety entities to lease space on selected towers for their daily operations. This proposed addition to the century code would give the DOT flexibility on establishing new and innovated technologies for future transportation initiatives with public or private entities. This addition would align with the State Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN) for sustainable future maintenance and operations.

This concludes my testimony. I am willing to answer any questions you might have.
Thank You.