



## **Senate Political Subdivisions Committee**

### **Testimony to oppose SB 2337**

Chairman Burckhard and Members of the Committee, my name is Mike Krumwiede appearing on behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies in opposition of SB 2337. The American Council of Engineering Companies of North Dakota (ACEC/ND) is a nonprofit, voluntary, self-governing organization which represents 29 member firms and nearly 1500 employees.

The concerns ACEC has about SB 2337 are generally universal to all the threshold bills that have come before the Legislative Assembly over the past several biennia. The primary concern is that the issue of thresholds as a requirement for project bidding and thresholds as they relate to a requirement of utilizing licensed design professionals have historically been tied together, and they should not be.

Thresholds related to requirements for utilizing licensed design professionals should be established with appropriate deliberation given to the impact to public safety.

Agencies are making judgments of whether or not to get a licensed professional involved in the design of a project based on the project cost, because that is the metric prescribed in State law. The reality is that a \$500 project could have a higher degree of impact to public safety than a \$5 million project, depending on the scope of the project. Simply increasing the threshold amount by any factor is going to be accompanied by a corresponding increase in risk to public safety, and we don't feel that is acceptable.

Last session we worked extensively to come up with a compromise to raising the threshold limit. Actually, the language starting on line 21 on page 1 of SB 2337 is the language we agreed to use last session and we came to an agreement to raise the threshold by \$50,000 to its current \$200,000 limit. This is approximately a 33% increase, and this bill would increase it again by 150% in just two years. Arbitrarily raising this threshold again is going to be accompanied by increase risk to public safety.

For these reasons we would ask for a Do Not Pass recommendation on Senate Bill 2337.