

Testimony Prepared for the

**Senate Finance & Taxation Committee**

January 17, 2023

By: Nick West PE, Township Supervisor & Grand Forks  
County Engineer



**RE: Support for SB 2178 – Relating to township special road fund limitations**

Chairman Kannianen and members of the Senate Finance & Taxation Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2178. I am Nick West, the Grand Forks County Engineer, a Township Supervisor and a member of the legislative committee for the ND Association of County Engineers (NDACE). I would offer support for the bill as proposed.

Townships have limited revenue options and are responsible for a significant number of miles of roadway. Often times the projects required to maintain or upgrade the roads exceed \$100,000. Most townships total revenue for a year is less than \$100,000, and with the limited revenue options it requires the Township Board to save money for many years in order to complete those larger projects. Having the ability to save up to \$500,000 would greatly increase the ability of a Township to do a special larger project. The current limitation makes larger projects impossible for a Township.

The last few years our economy has seen a large increase in inflation. Anytime an exact dollar amount is used in law, it would be prudent to adjust those numbers for inflation periodically.

Chairman Kannianen and committee members, please support this bill as written.

Thank you for your time and service to ND.