



In Favor of SB 2012
House Appropriations – Government Operations Division
March 10, 2025

Chairman Monson and members of the Division:

For the record, my name is Lesley Icenogle, state government liaison for the North Dakota Corn Growers Association (NDCGA). NDCGA represents more than 13,000 growers across the state. Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for Senate Bill 2012.

NDSU's economic contribution analysis of North Dakota's agriculture industry places ag's annual contribution to the economy at \$41.3 billion and more than 123,000 jobs. This contribution depends on good, reliable public infrastructure. Addressing the backlog of deficient local roads and bridges is a policy priority for NDCGA.

Predictable, consistent funding for rural infrastructure is critical. Growers need a good network of farm-to-market roads to efficiently transport their crops. Additionally, rural residents rely on sound roads and bridges to ensure public safety—firefighters, ambulances, and school buses travel these routes. SB 2012 provides formula distributions and grants for townships, counties, and cities, as well as dedicated funding for county and township bridges.

The NDCGA mission statement is "growing a healthy, profitable business climate for northern corn," and investing in rural infrastructure will help us meet this mission. We urge your support for SB 2012 as passed unanimously by the Senate. Thank you for your consideration.