

Support of SB2177

House Finance and Taxation Committee

March 10, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Headland and Committee members.

I am Larry Syverson from Mayville. I grow soybeans on my farm in Traill County. I am the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Roseville Township in Traill County and the Executive Director of the North Dakota Township Officers Association. NDTOA represents 6,000 Township Officers serving more than 1,400 dues-paying member townships.

As a soybean-growing farmer, I appreciate any opportunity to build a domestic market for my crop, and the expansion of animal agriculture is one way to do this. However, as a township officer, I must be concerned about the impact on the township infrastructure. The frequent, year-round truck traffic will have a very costly effect on the township's roads.

The structures for these developments are exempt from property tax under 57-02-08 (15, a,4), so the local subdivisions do not gain funding to counter the increased cost. The rest of the taxpayers are left to subsidize these developments. Ag-infrastructure grants are available to help with initial costs in some cases, but those are one-time funds; they do not address ongoing costs, such as extra gravel, blading, and snow removal. SB2177 will help bridge the funding gap caused by these developments.

I support SB2177. I hope the language in Section 3, #7, will be sufficient to direct funding to the township if it is primarily a township road that is impacted. In many cases, it will be a township road that is directly affected by the increased traffic and loads.

Chairman Headland and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify today. Please give SB2177 your favorable consideration. This concludes my prepared statement. I will try to answer any questions you might have.