

Greetings, Chair and members of the Committee. I am Matt Linneman, Deputy Director for Engineering at the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I'm here today to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 2183.

Safety is at the heart of everything we do at the NDDOT. Many days of the year our team members and partners work in construction and maintenance zones across North Dakota, ensuring that our roadways are safe and efficient for the traveling public. However, those work zones come with significant risks.

Our team frequently reports alarming near-misses in work zones—drivers swerving at the last moment or trucks locking their brakes to avoid collisions. These moments underscore how close we often come to tragedy. Additionally, we've had numerous incidents where vehicles struck equipment or work vehicles, and thankfully, no one was outside the vehicle at the time. We have had several major injuries in the past two years when vehicles have entered maintenance work zones.

The NDDOT has taken significant steps to enhance worker safety. We've invested in advanced lighting, reflectors, and additional training for our team members. While these measures have helped, there is only so much we can do to protect our employees. Drivers must also take responsibility for their behavior in work zones.

Senate Bill 2183 is an important tool to deter dangerous driving. By slowing down and driving attentively, drivers help create a safer environment—not just for workers, but for themselves and everyone on the road.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you.