

Testimony to the
House Transportation Committee
Prepared March 12, 2025
by Ryan Gellner, North Dakota Association of Counties

In Support of SB 2183

Chairman Ruby, members of the House Transportation Committee,

The North Dakota Association of Counties **supports SB 2183.**

In North Dakota, there are over 11-thousand miles of county roads for which counties are responsible. Counties throughout North Dakota have taken the Vision Zero initiative seriously and are supportive of significantly increasing fines within work zones to help protect the lives of work zone workers.

Counties are responsible for maintaining a vast network of roads essential to our residents, businesses, and visitors. Work zones are a necessary part of ensuring the safety and efficiency of our infrastructure. However, they also present significant risks to both workers and motorists.

Preliminary data from the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) for 2024 indicates that there were 70 injuries resulting from work zone crashes. These numbers highlight the ongoing danger that our road workers face daily. Even more concerning, over the past five years, seven road workers have lost their lives while simply doing their jobs. These are preventable tragedies, and it is our responsibility to take action to reduce these risks.

Road crews throughout the state have seen firsthand the devastating impact that work zone crashes can have on families and communities. When drivers fail to slow down, remain attentive, or disregard safety measures, the consequences can be severe. By strengthening laws and significantly increasing fines, this bill will help ensure that work zones are treated with the caution they deserve.

On behalf of all 53 Counties in North Dakota, I urge you to support SB 2183 and take a stand for the safety of our workers and motorists. I urge the committee to offer a “do pass” on SB 2183.

Ryan Gellner
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