



Chairman Luick and Honorable Members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs

Committee: For the record, my name is Rachel Grosz; am writing on behalf of the North Dakota Farm Bureau (NDFB) to express our support for House Bill 1201, which proposes amendments to Century Code concerning drains intersecting with roadways that are part of the state highway system.

NDFB is an organization made up of 28,000 member-families and farmers and ranchers across our state develop our policy. Our goal is to enhance the livelihoods of North Dakotans, advocating for agriculture—our state's largest and most vital economic sector.

We believe effective water management is crucial for agricultural productivity, and the infrastructure supporting it must be efficient and reliable.

We commend the sponsors of HB 1201 for their dedication to improving North Dakota's water management infrastructure. Work addressing drainage and roadway intersection issues demonstrates a commitment to protecting both agricultural interests and public safety. By advocating for clearer guidelines and better maintenance, they are helping to ensure the long-term sustainability of our state's infrastructure and rural communities. We appreciate their efforts and strongly support this initiative.

HB 1201 addresses the construction and maintenance of bridges and culverts associated with drainage systems intersecting state highways. By clarifying responsibilities and ensuring that these structures are properly designed and maintained, the bill ensures improved water management, reduced flood risk, and protects both public and private lands.

In conclusion, NDFB supports HB 1201 as it represents a positive step toward enhancing our state's water management infrastructure, thereby benefiting the agricultural community and all North Dakotans.

Thank you for considering this important matter. We respectfully urge a "do-pass" recommendation from your committee.

Respectfully,

Rachel Grosz

Government Affairs Liaison – North Dakota Farm Bureau

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