



In Support of SB 2142
Senate Transportation
Testimony of Drew Courtney
January 17, 2025

Chairman Clemens and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity for the North Dakota Corn Growers Association to share our support of Senate Bill 2142.

For the record, my name is Drew Courtney. I farm near Oakes with my cousin, wife, and kids. I also serve on my township board. I am here today as a board member of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association, which is the voice of North Dakota corn producers, representing more than 13,000 growers across the state.

NDSU's economic contribution analysis of North Dakota's agriculture industry places ag's annual contribution to the economy at \$31 billion and more than 110,000 jobs. This contribution depends on reliable public infrastructure. 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.

According to the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute's 2024 report, infrastructure needs for county, township, and tribal roads and bridges total \$12.35 billion over the next 20 years. Unpaved roads make up more than half of that total. Addressing the backlog of deficient local roads and bridges is a policy priority for the

Corn Growers. As a township officer, I can also speak firsthand about our limited resources to maintain and repair local roads and bridges.

Our Association mission statement is “growing a healthy, profitable business climate for northern corn,” and well-maintained township roads and bridges are critical to help us meet that mission. We urge your support for SB 2142.

I will stand in response to any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration.