

HB 1464
House Finance and Taxation Committee
February 1, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

Good Morning Chairman Headland and Members of the Committee,

My name is Art Thompson. I am a life-long North Dakotan, and I don't plan on moving anywhere else, anytime soon.

I am here today representing the North Dakota Concrete Council. Our association represents ready-mixed concrete and concrete product manufacturing and distribution companies along with their raw material suppliers. In addition, we also represent the ND Chapter of the American Concrete Pavement Association, which includes concrete contractors. On average, the production and placement of concrete in North Dakota provides over \$500 million in annual economic impact. Unlike more specialized industries, our members are in every corner of the state and range from those with multi-state operations to family-owned local businesses. Members of our association run a lot of heavy equipment and commercial delivery trucks, suffice to say we burn a lot of gas and diesel.

Despite this, on behalf of our members, I am here today to encourage you to support HB 1464. Our members see the bigger picture of the benefit fuel tax plays in helping to pay for infrastructure construction and maintenance.

A healthy infrastructure program not only provides jobs for our industry, a strong and well-maintained road and bridge network allows us to safely deliver our products to other jobsites.

It is no secret that gas tax revenues are declining across the country as fuel milage standards continue to increase and the use of electric vehicles continues to grow.

HB 1464 attempts to help offset declining revenues by implementing a modest two-cent per gallon increase, growing to four-cents after June 30, 2022. Even with this increase passed, North Dakota will still pay the lowest gas tax of its neighboring states.

While this bill does not address the question of alternative tax collection, such as a vehicle miles traveled tax, electric vehicle user fee, other ideas it is a step in the right direction to help ensure our DOT has necessary funds to leverage its federal match.

The North Dakota Concrete Council encourages you to give this bill a DO PASS recommendation.

I will conclude my testimony and stand for any questions you may have.

Thank you.