

Testimony for 1148 – 68th Session - Agricultural Infrastructure Fund

Chairman Thomas and committee, my name is Phil Murphy representing the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association. The NDSGA stands in support of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund which is modeled after South Dakota's existing Transportation Economic Development Grant program. It would help local governments prepare for and deal with the impacts that new or existing value-added agricultural facilities may impose. And those costs can be imposing. For example, on a large project such as the \$352 million dollar Green Bison soybean crush plant just east of Jamestown in Spiritwood, there are road costs of several other millions to support the anticipated 185 loaded trucks entering and exiting daily. One 10 mile stretch of Stutsman county road 62 has construction costs of \$25.5 million with engineering, environmental and right of way adding another \$10 million. Certainly, \$2.5 million would be helpful to that political subdivision.

As the sponsor indicated, this bill could also be used in smaller projects for individuals up to \$500,000 to upgrade or build new facilities for value added projects such as an animal feeding or processing operation. Without taking too much time in order to honor the many waiting to testify on this bill, I would end by saying that our value-added Ag economy is finally seeing exciting growth and welcome any help this committee would extend by furthering the passage of 1148. Thank you for your consideration.