

Support of HB 1148

House Agriculture Committee

January 20, 2023

Good morning, Chairman Thomas and Committee members.

I am Larry Syverson from Mayville, I am the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Roseville Township in Traill County, and I am also the Executive Secretary of the North Dakota Township Officers Association, and I grow soybeans on my farm in Traill County. NDTOA represents nearly 6,000 Township Officers that serve in more than 1,100 dues paying member townships.

The North Dakota Township Officers Association is definitely in support of HB 1148 and any other proposal that would bring a means to provide road access to these massive developments. It is easy to see the benefit a new value-added industry such as a soybean crushing plant will be to producers in a large diameter circle. Improved markets will be a long-term benefit to the counties and townships as more profitable production will increase land value.

Still a lot of cost will fall on the local area, and in the case of a township, and probably even a county, most of the benefited acres will lay outside of the taxing district. Taxing abilities are limited and barely able to provide for normal necessary operations in the townships and counties. Long-term benefit doesn't pay immediate costs.

HB 1148 would provide for much of that immediate cost as the local township or county bears the burden of providing gain for the larger area.

Chairman Thomas and Committee members, the membership of the North Dakota Township Officers Association requests your favorable recommendation for HB 1148.

Thank you. I will try to answer any questions you may have.