

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I'm Jon Ketterling, Director of the Bridge Division for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I'm here to provide information related to HB 1206.

House Bill 1206 provides language allowing a county to transfer ownership of a bridge to adjacent landowners on a closed section line. It goes on to state that this action will relieve the county of future requirements to inspect, sign and repair the bridge as stated in section 24-08-03.

The Code of Federal Regulations 23 U.S.C 151 mandates that the state is responsible for the inspection of all public highway bridges >20' within the state, except for those that are federally or tribally owned.

The Code of Federal Regulations 23 CFR 650.303 states that the National Bridge Inspection Standards apply to private bridges that are connected to a public road on both ends of the bridge.

We would recommend that signage requirements be added to this bill on installing and maintaining the signs as long as the bridge is not removed or closed permanently to prevent usage of the bridge by the public.

This concludes my testimony. Thank You.