Testimony for SB 2178

Senator Jordan Kannianen, District 4

This bill proposes to increase the cap on the amount of funds allowed to be kept in a Township special road fund from $100,000 to $500,000.

The short story is that $100,000 doesn't go very far anymore for the maintenance and repair of township roads. This issue is especially true for Townships in the Bakken, where maintenance and repair costs are continuous and sometimes steep to support the oil and gas industry.

Production tax in lieu of payments are a tremendous help to townships in western North Dakota, and townships need the ability to place these funds in the special road fund and save up for projects that cost a lot more than $100,000.

Once funds are placed in this special fund by the Board of Supervisors they can only be used for road purposes, such as gravel, road construction, and snow removal.

I ask for the support of townships, and the ability to have more flexibility with their road funding, by considering a Do Pass recommendation on SB 2178.

Thank you.