

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I'm Matt Linneman, Deputy Director for Engineering for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT). I'm here to introduce and support House Bill 1079.

House Bill 1079 will provide the DOT authority to enter into agreements with adjoining states and provinces to provide inspection and testing of fabricated products that are produced in North Dakota but will be incorporated into highway construction projects outside of North Dakota.

The DOT currently has contracts with Minnesota and South Dakota to provide inspection and testing services for certain fabricated products made in their states. These agreements provide significant benefit for the DOT as we get a high level of expertise at a very reasonable rate. The current contracts typically involve an hourly reimbursement of the adjoining state DOTs staff time and expenses.

As we renew or enter into future agreements with our neighboring states and as more fabrication work is done in North Dakota, we would like to make these agreements reciprocal, so we can work cooperatively with our partners in the region.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you.