



**Testimony of Samantha Vangsness, government liaison**

**North Dakota Corn Growers Association**

**In support of SB 2329**

**January 24, 2023**

Chairman Kannianen and members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee,

My name is Samantha Vangsness, government liaison for the North Dakota Corn Growers Association (NDCGA). NDCGA is the voice of the more than 13,000 corn growers across the state and advocates at the grass roots level on issues impacting producers. NDCGA would like to voice support of Senate Bill 2329, which would allocate funds to the township highway aid fund from motor vehicle excise taxes.

Agriculture's economic success depends greatly on reliable public infrastructure such as highways and bridges. Townships have limited access to funds to repair its rural infrastructure; property tax mill levies are capped, townships receive just 2.7 percent of Highway Tax Distribution Fund disbursements, and many townships are unable to meet match requirements for FEMA repair funds. The effect of moving 25% of the motor vehicle excise taxes from the general fund to the township highway aid fund would be a valuable investment for the state to ensure reliable highways and bridges for North Dakotans, particularly our agricultural producers who rely on these roads to get goods to market, to utilize.

The North Dakota Corn Growers Association mission statement is "growing a healthy, profitable business climate for northern corn," and this state investment in public infrastructure would assist the state's corn growers towards their economic success. Thank you for your time and NDCGA urges a 'Do Pass' recommendation of SB 2329. I stand for any questions you may have.