

Testimony Prepared for:
House Finance & Tax Committee
February 5, 2025
By: Genny Dienstmann, NDACo



RE: Support of HB 1382

Special Fuel Excise Tax for County/City/Township Road Fund

Chairman Headland and members of the House Finance and Tax Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1382. I'm Genny Dienstmann with the ND Association of Counties and in my role I also serve as Executive Director of the ND Association of County Engineers and Highway Superintendents.

Infrastructure needs across our state are great and costs associated with these needs continue to grow. Similar to cities and townships, counties across North Dakota need long term, secure funding solutions to better plan and prioritize future transportation projects and meet the needs of the traveling public.

The Legislature has been prudent in its past efforts to address local infrastructure needs with funding through Operation Prairie Dog, Surge Funding and most recently the Flex Fund Program, and for that we are grateful. This bill will improve upon these efforts by bringing forward revenue with a much greater degree of certainty to future funding, which will allow local governments to more effectively plan and maintain our local road and bridge networks.

The Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute 2024 Needs Study gives us a better understanding of the magnitude of our local infrastructure needs. Over the next 20-year span the needs break down as follows with \$6.9 billion in unpaved roads, \$3.5 billion in paved roads, nearly \$1.1 billion in bridges and over \$800 million in minor structures. There is no question the needs are there, and having consistent long-term funding is key in moving the need forward in improving our transportation system.

Chairman Headland and Committee members, we appreciate your consideration and support of HB 1382.