



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Favor of SB 2151
Senate Appropriations Government Division
January 21, 2025**

Chairman Wanzek, members of the Senate Appropriations Government Operations Division, for the record I am Dan Wogsland representing the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. On behalf of NDGGA, I am here to express our support for Senate Bill 2151.

SB 2151 proposes significant and positive changes to North Dakota's legacy fund earnings allocation, establishing new funds to support critical infrastructure and tax relief initiatives. These changes will have a substantial positive impact on our state's agricultural producers and rural communities.

Infrastructure Investment

SB 2151 creates a County and Township Bridge Fund, allocating \$100 million per biennium for much-needed bridge repairs and replacements. This addresses a critical infrastructure need, especially in rural areas where our members operate:

- \$80 million will be distributed to eligible counties based on their share of bridge repair needs.
- \$20 million will be allocated to the Department of Transportation for projects in counties with smaller infrastructure needs.

This targeted funding will significantly improve transportation safety and efficiency across North Dakota, directly benefiting our grain producers who rely on these roads and bridges to transport their crops.

Economic Development and Long-Term Vision

Investing in infrastructure stimulates economic growth, particularly in the agricultural sector. Improved bridges support commerce and agriculture by ensuring efficient transportation of goods. This investment demonstrates a forward-thinking policy that addresses critical infrastructure needs while establishing a 10-year plan for bridge funding.

Fiscal Responsibility and Tax Relief

The bill maintains a balanced approach to legacy fund earnings. It preserves allocations for debt service and highway funding while creating a sustainable funding stream for bridge projects through 2035. Additionally, the establishment of a Legacy Earnings Tax Relief Fund provides a mechanism to return legacy fund earnings to North Dakota residents through potential tax reductions.

Conclusion

In conclusion, SB 2151 offers a balanced, responsible approach to utilizing North Dakota's legacy fund earnings. It addresses immediate infrastructure needs while creating opportunities for future tax relief and economic growth. The bill's focus on rural infrastructure, fiscal responsibility, and long-term planning make it particularly beneficial for our state's agricultural producers.

Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association urges your support for Senate Bill 2151. This legislation will strengthen our state's infrastructure, support our agricultural economy, and provide long-term benefits to all North Dakotans.

Thank you for your consideration, and I would be happy to answer any questions.