



In Favor of SB 2151
Senate Appropriations – Government Operations Division
January 21, 2025

Chairman Wanzek and Committee members:

For the record, my name is Lesley Icenogle, state government liaison for the North Dakota Corn Growers Association (NDCGA). NDCGA represents more than 13,000 growers across the state. Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for Senate Bill 2151.

NDSU's economic contribution analysis of North Dakota's agriculture industry places ag's annual contribution to the economy at \$31 billion and more than 110,000 jobs. This contribution depends on good, reliable public infrastructure. Addressing the backlog of deficient local roads and bridges is a policy priority for NDCGA.

Most townships do not have the funds to repair local bridges and are not able to levy to the level needed. SB 2151 utilizes the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute's report to distribute state grant funds for the repair and replacement of identified county and township bridges. Predictable, consistent funding for rural infrastructure is critical, and this bill notes the Legislature's intent to continue funding for bridge projects through the county and township bridge fund through June 2035.

The NDCGA mission statement is "growing a healthy, profitable business climate for northern corn," and investing in rural infrastructure will help us meet this mission. We urge your support for SB 2151. Thank you for your consideration, and I will stand for questions.