

Support of SB2177

Senate Finance and Taxation Committee

January 20, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Weber and Committee members.

I am Larry Syverson from Mayville. I grow soybeans on my farm in Traill County. I am the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Roseville Township in Traill County and the Executive Director of the North Dakota Township Officers Association. NDTOA represents 6,000 Township Officers serving more than 1,400 dues-paying member townships.

As a soybean-growing farmer, I appreciate any opportunity to build a domestic market for my crop, and the expansion of animal agriculture is one way to build the domestic market. However, as a township officer, I must be concerned about the impact on the township infrastructure. The frequent, year-round truck traffic will have a very costly effect on the roads of a township.

The structures for these developments are exempt from property tax under 57-02-08 (15, a,4), so the local subdivisions do not gain funding to counter the increased cost. The rest of the taxpayers are left to subsidize these developments. In some cases, ag-infrastructure grants are available to help with initial costs, but those are one-time funds; they do not address ongoing costs, such as extra gravel, extra blading, and extra snow removal. SB2177 will help bridge the funding gap caused by these developments.

I support SB2177, but it needs to be amended to include township infrastructure. As written, SB2177 only addresses county costs, but in many cases, it will be a township road that is directly affected by the increased traffic.

I also find the very last five words of SB2177 to be very troubling. "or for other county expenses." Those words will allow funds to be diverted from the intended infrastructure needs.

Chairman Weber and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify today. Please amend SB2177 and then give it your favorable consideration. This concludes my prepared statement. I will try to answer any questions you might have.