

Good morning, Chair Roers and members of the Committee. I'm Wayde Swenson, Office of Operations Director for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I appreciate the opportunity to provide information regarding Senate Bill 2069.

SB 2069 proposes creating a new section to chapter 46-05, requiring a unit of government to publish notices with the secretary of state when it is required by law to publish in a newspaper.

The NDDOT publishes many notices, such as requests for bids on buildings, highways, and structures, as well as announcements for public input meetings.

The NDDOT has submitted SB 2062, which seeks to remove the requirement to advertise requests for bids in newspapers and shift to more modern and impactful communications methods. Regardless of that bill, the requirement that a unit of government publish notices with the secretary of state adds additional administrative work.

The NDDOT suggests an amendment to the bill.

A unit of government shall may file a published notice with the secretary of state whenever the unit of government is required by law to publish notice in a newspaper. Unless otherwise provided by law, a notice required by law which is filed and posted by the secretary of state fulfills publication requirements if a newspaper fails to publish the notice required by law.

This amendment gives units of government the option to advertise notices with the secretary of state.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you.