

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee – My name is Chad M. Orn, Deputy Director for Planning for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I'm here to introduce and provide testimony in support of HB 1051.

House Bill 1051 proposes to amend subsection 3 of section *24-02-37: State highway fund – Priorities for expenditure – Use of investment income* to include tribal entities among the list of applicants eligible to request funds.

The special road fund (SRF) is utilized for construction and maintenance of access roads to and roads within recreational, tourist, and historical areas. A political subdivision or state agency may request funds by applying to the special road committee. The special road committee may require the political subdivision or state agency to contribute to the cost of the project as a condition of any expenditure authorized from the special road fund.

The statute does not allow tribal governments to participate in the request of special road funds through application as they are not a political subdivision or state agency. HB 1051 proposes to modify section 24-02-37 subsection 3 by including "tribal governments" in the statute's language, as it relates to eligibility to request funds through application and to contribute to the cost of the project.

The NDDOT recommends a "do pass" on HB 1051. This concludes my testimony. Thank you.