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Bismarck, ND 58503

**The Honorable David A. Clemens/Transportation Committee**  
ND Legislative Council/ND State Capitol  
600 E. Blvd. Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505

January 2025

**Subject: Support for SB2391 – Designating Stutsman County Road 62 as Part of the State Highway System**

Dear Senator Clemens and members of the Transportation Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2391, a bill that seeks to designate Stutsman County Road 62 (CR62) as part of the state highway system. As a vital transportation route within our region, CR62 plays a significant role in supporting economic activities, infrastructure planning, and regional connectivity.

One of the primary concerns with the current condition of CR62 is the economic impact it has on our agricultural and industrial sectors. The deteriorating condition of this road has led to substantial losses in grain bushels being delivered to other facilities, affecting local producers and businesses, such as our Dakota Spirit AgEnergy (DSA) located at the Spiritwood Energy Park Association (SEPA), in Spiritwood, ND. The ability to transport goods efficiently and safely is crucial to maintaining a competitive and thriving economy in our region.

Additionally, the unpredictability of road closures due to poor conditions creates further disruptions. In 2022, CR62 had to be shut down due to its deteriorating state, leading to logistical complications and financial burdens for those dependent on it. This stretch of road remains the only unpaved portion of CR62, making it particularly vulnerable to weather conditions and seasonal wear.

With the state's continued emphasis on industrial and economic development projects at Spiritwood, it is imperative that we address the associated infrastructure challenges. Stutsman County has been working diligently to allocate resources effectively; however, the scale of this project exceeds the scope of available county programs. Despite attempts to secure funding through existing state programs, we have been informed that this project is too large to qualify.

Furthermore, SEPA is a unique industrial location with no comparable sites elsewhere in North Dakota. Ensuring a reliable transportation infrastructure for SEPA and its associated developments is essential for sustaining economic growth and attracting further investments. By integrating this section of CR62 into the state highway system, Stutsman County can better allocate its limited resources to other pressing infrastructure needs within our jurisdiction.

I urge you to support SB2391 to provide the necessary infrastructure improvements that will benefit our economy, enhance road reliability, and foster continued growth in our region. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out if you require any further information.

Sincerely,  
**Jeff Zueger, CEO, Harvestone Low Carbon Partners**  
Cc: Levi Taylor, Sen. Wanzek

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