

## SENATE BILL NO. 2391 SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE DAVID A. CLEMENS, CHAIR TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2391.

Chairman Clemens and members of the Senate Transportation Committee. My name is Parrell Grossman, and it is my privilege to be the Legislative Director for the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association. I appear in support of Senate Bill 2391.

The Association advocates for more than 8,900 operations that raise soybeans in North Dakota. In 2024, North Dakota soybean farmers planted 6.6 million acres of soybeans, producing over 245 million bushels of soybeans.

This legislation designating Stutsman County road 62 as part of the state highway system is an important change with compelling reasons and the Association is highly supportive of this change. A huge number of soybeans and corn semi-trucks are funneled up this road to cross the interstate. The truckloads transporting products to the Green Bison soybeans crushing plant and the ethanol plant is in the dozens, and probably 90 plus truckloads per day.

The benefits of these soybean truckloads and value-added agriculture don't end with delivery to the ADM and Marathon Petroleum Green Bison plant. Green Bison also ships crushed soybean oil to the Marathon Petroleum refinery in South Heart via rail, where it is converted to renewable diesel for further benefit to the state.

Soybean farmers are very appreciative of the North Dakota legislature's huge role in increasing this value-added agriculture, among other things, via the Green Bison plant. Our friends, the corn growers, certainly must feel this same appreciation regarding the ethanol plant. The Association wants to be sure the state is doing everything possible to ensure the safety and efficiency of all the increased traffic over this road. Stutsman County certainly is doing its best to try and maintain county road 62 within its resources. However, it is time and appropriate to switch this county road to a state road. The state is better equipped to manage and maintain this heavy semi traffic on this county road.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for the reasons stated, including the other testimony in support of this Bill, the Association respectfully asks the Senate Transportation Committee to give Senate Bill 2391 a "Do Pass" recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be happy to address any questions.