

Senator David O'Connell and committee,

I am Cindy Schwehr, Chair, Barnes County Comm. and part of our regional Truck Reg. Comm.

Thank you for allowing us a few minutes the morning to tell you of a regional program we are working on.

We have present today concerned Commissioners and Road Supervisors present from several counties that are working towards a regional truck reg. program.

Barnes, Stutsman, LaMoure, Ransom, Dickey, Logan and Sargent have been meeting to study the feasibility of forming a joint powers agreement to do truck regulatory over the past several month. A committee has been formed to pull together the guidelines so that we all have the same permit fees, weights and load capacities and so on. We want people to travel seamlessly in this region and know when they cross a county line what the rules are. The plan is to hire a licensed peace officer as an employee of one county and deputized in all 7 counties. Giving that person the right to stop, fine and or ticket in these counties. Basically can do anything any sheriffs deputy can do but with an emphasis on truck reg.

For any one county to do this alone is cost prohibitive. However together is very do-able.

We feel there is a sense urgency not only in our region but state wide to get something going to help the premature deterioration of our roads. In our area we experience over weights due to renewable energy growth, Ag transportation with the increase in farm product being hauled via semi's and the sheer size of the farm equipment. In the west of course there are the oil production road issues and so on. Each region has its own growth that is causing serious infrastructure issues.

Highway Patrol has been very good to us in helping patrol and enforce when we call or when they can but they are spread way to thin to monitor to the level we need.

In Barnes alone we have had over weight's ranging from 7500 to 68,000 pounds over. Bringing site-able fees from \$500-\$13,500 in and all these fines coming in to the state. So as you can see if we go forward with this program in 6 or 7 counties it could produce a much larger revenue stream for the state. And at the same time by enforcement at the county level we will also be helping to protect roads at the township, city and the state level.

Counties are losing ground as far as maintaining out transportation system. We see this as an attempt to try and help our selves maintain what we have and prevent premature deterioration.

We have strong support from the county level and would like to feel that same support from you at the state level. Right now we are looking at rough figures for each county of \$20,000 per year to get this started. That is a lot for smaller counties but the payoff should show up long term in our transportation systems.

If this committee could see fit to look at the funding structure for transportation and see if there is anyway we could share in the fines collected to help off set at least some of the cost to counties to run this program we think it could be a win/win for all of us.

Thanks You

Cindy Schwehr

[cindy.schwehr@smphs.org](mailto:cindy.schwehr@smphs.org)

11442 23<sup>rd</sup> St SE Rogers ND 58479

701-845-8238

701-840-5604

701-646-6203