



## **North Dakota Grain Growers Association Testimony in Support of HB 1505, Section 7 November 8, 2021**

Chairman Delzer, members of the House Appropriations Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland, Executive Director of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). NDGGA, through our contracts with the North Dakota Wheat Commission and the North Dakota Barley Council, engages in domestic policy issues on the state and federal level on behalf of North Dakota wheat and barley farmers. I am providing testimony for you today on behalf of NDGGA in support HB 1505, Section 7, which provides \$317 million for road and bridge infrastructure in North Dakota.

Chairman Delzer, members of the House Appropriations Committee, all of you are very aware of the critical road and bridge infrastructure needs of state, county and township roads and bridges in North Dakota. Studies by the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute and others have graphically demonstrated that it will require an abundance of resources to address both the immediate and future road and bridge infrastructure requirements to keep the traffic flowing safely in the state. HB 1505, Section 7, is a big step in the right direction.

North Dakota citizens of every walk of life, virtually every type of commerce, depends on a transportation system that is both safe and efficient. You can't work, you can't go to school, you can't pump oil and you can't grow and deliver a crop if you have a failed transportation system. But at the same time, it is essential that the state, county and township transportation system we have in place is adequately maintained and upgraded.

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HB 1505 isn't an expenditure, it is an investment in North Dakota's future. North Dakota may never see over \$1 billion in unanticipated federal funds again; investing those funds to address a service that essentially every North Dakotan uses and needs is the essence of public service.

Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association respectfully requests that the House Appropriations Committee give a favorable recommendation to HB 1505, Section 7, and the Association would urge the full House to concur.