

***SB 2111 TESTIMONY  
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
BY: DUANE SCHELL  
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER  
ND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (NDIT)  
MARCH 05, 2021***

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Duane Schell. I am the Chief Technology Officer within North Dakota Information Technology Department. I am here to express support for Senate Bill 2111.

One of the many duties of my position, is the opportunity to represent the Chief Information Officer on the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) and I am currently serving as the chair of that committee. This committee, by statute, provides oversight to the Statewide Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN) project. The SIRN project was approved during the last legislative assembly and will provide the statewide public safety community with critical communications capabilities.

As we have been working through the multi-year SIRN project, we have identified possible public-private partnerships related to the State's tower assets that present an opportunity that could lower the overall operational costs of SIRN, provide opportunities for improved communications capabilities throughout the state, and could make better use of a valuable and important infrastructure asset owned by the State. This bill provides the opportunity to further explore these public-private partnerships and if we can come to amenable terms with a potential partner begin to realize these opportunities.

This concludes my prepared remarks. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Duane Schell  
Chief Technology Officer  
ND Information Technology  
701.328.4360  
dschell@nd.gov