North Dakota Township Officers Association Promoting basic Grassroots Government!

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Senate Appropriations Committee

In support of SB 2020, UGPTI Budget

Good morning Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. I am Larry Syverson, the Executive Secretary of the North Dakota Township Officers Association. NDTOA represents the nearly 6,000 Township Officers that serve 1,317 organized ND Townships.

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you and to relate what important resources Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute and North Dakota Local Technical Assistance Program are to ND Townships.

You know they have conducted the road needs studies that have defined where the transportation infrastructure of the state needs to be reinforced. They also actively take part in NDTOA convention programs as well as sixteen regional workshops and they provide interesting technical content for our quarterly newsletter.

They provide training in the proper use of road signs, in what constitutes good gravel, in best practices for road maintenance, in how to place culverts, and an inexpensive method for determining if a road sign has enough retro-reflectivity to convey its safety message at night for even those of us with not so young eyes. Those are just a few of the topics they cover for us.

This training helps us provide for the safety of the traveling public and encourages the economy of doing things right with best practices.

This training is well received by ND Townships and they are also invited to present their programs at county level meetings.

NDTOA asks you to support UGPTI and NDLTAP, they are important to us.

Thank you Chairman Holmberg and committee members; that concludes my prepared statement; I will try to answer any questions you may have.