



North Dakota Township Officers Association

Promoting basic Grassroots Government!

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Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

In support of HB 1157

Good morning Chairman Burckhard and members of the Senate Political Subdivisions 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.

Township roads are at the mercy of the weather and often unforeseen events. When those occurrences damage a road beyond usability the cost of repairs is huge, sometimes so huge the maximum levy ability of the township cannot even service the debt that would be incurred to make the repairs. Maintenance on the other roads of the township can't be put on hold while paying for one large repair.

Sometimes these events do not cover a wide enough area to qualify for FEMA assistance, but they are devastating at the local level. The citizens of the township should be able to levy on their own property to make the needed repairs; a township cannot depend on any other benefactor coming to the financial rescue.

NDTOA thanks you for your consideration and respectfully requests that you give HB 1157 a do pass recommendation.

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