

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig, and I am the Director of Government Affairs for the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of House Bill 1012.

Transportation infrastructure is important to our members as a way to get goods to market. One of our policy priorities is to ensure that existing maintenance needs are met, along with future needs. Our membership covers all sectors and corners of the state. Transportation infrastructure is needed by all of them.

We also feel that it is important to support both Federal infrastructure funds designated for North Dakota and flexible matching state appropriations to maximize investment. We would encourage consideration of utilizing motor vehicle excise tax revenues for infrastructure investments.

Specifically, we feel that the following components of HB 1012 are crucial to meet transportation infrastructure needs of the North Dakota business community.

- FTEs and operating funding for 2 traveling CDL testing positions to provide more accessibility to rural locations.
- Federal discretionary funds and match.
- State flexible transportation fund.
- A \$50 million line of credit with the Bank of North Dakota for Hwy 85.
- Roadway management system project.
- Transferring Motor Vehicle Excise Tax revenues to the State Highway Fund.
- Carryover authority, including \$10 million for the maintenance and improvement of township paved and unpaved roads and bridges and \$35 million of bond proceeds.
- Funding for the Short Line Rail loan program.

We hope that you will fund these components of the bill that will improve transportation infrastructure in North Dakota. Thank you for your consideration.