



January 23, 2023

Senate – Finance and Taxation  
Committee Chairman Jordan Kannianen  
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From: Anthony Dudas, Airport Director, Williston Basin International Airport, Airport Association of North Dakota Vice President

Subject: Support for removal of \$400M SIIF bucket in SB 2275

To the Honorable Chairman Kannianen and Committee,

The State of North Dakota has placed significant investment into infrastructure with the adoption of Operation Prairie Dog. However, the \$400 million SIIF bucket, which was not proposed as part of the original Prairie Dog Bill, creates a significant hurdle for non-oil producing cities and counties, as well as airports, to attain funding for critical infrastructure projects.

After the adoption of Operation Prairie Dog in the 2019 – 2021 biennium, the buckets for cities, counties, and airports did not fill which required these entities to delay or cancel infrastructure projects. If the SIIF bucket had not been in effect, these buckets would have filled, and projects would have moved forward. In the 2021 – 2023 biennium the buckets filled at the very end of 2022, leaving a great delay the ability to design, bid, and build projects. Additionally, higher construction costs will be present due to this delay in funding availability. Reliable state and local funding for transportation projects is critical for state and local leaders to plan ahead, create shovel ready projects, and to maximize federal grant funding.

I ask that you support the elimination of the \$400 million SIIF Fund allocation placed ahead of the infrastructure “buckets” and allow these buckets to fill first before the SIIF Fund as originally proposed in “Operation Prairie Dog”.

Respectfully,

*Anthony Dudas*

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