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**Testimony of  
Matt Perdue  
North Dakota Farmers Union  
Before the  
Senate Finance and Taxation Committee  
January 24, 2023**

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Chairman Patten and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2275. My name is Matt Perdue, and I am testifying on behalf of North Dakota Farmers Union's (NDFU) members.

NDFU supports SB 2275, which adjusts the formula for Operation Prairie Dog (OPD). Specifically, the bill eliminates the \$400 million Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund (SIIF) bucket that is situated before the Municipal Infrastructure Fund and County and Township Infrastructure Fund. This bill does not affect the SIIF bucket at the end of the formula.

According to the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute (UGPTI), our rural roads and bridges require \$10.5 billion of investment over the next 20 years. We appreciate the wisdom of the 66<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly in establishing OPD to address those needs. We believe this bill would improve upon that foundation, better addressing local infrastructure needs.

Under the current OPD formula, \$400 million is allocated to the SIIF before any funds are available to counties, townships and municipalities. Removing that SIIF bucket will ensure the more funds are more consistently available to help political subdivisions address their needs. More consistent availability of funds, in turn, allows political subdivisions to better plan for infrastructure projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We respectfully request a "Do Pass" recommendation on SB 2275. I will stand for any questions.