



Advocating for North Dakota's Integrated Infrastructure Network

January 24, 2023

Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2275

Chairman Kanniainen and Members of the Committee:

I'm Scott Meske, representing the North Dakota Transportation Coalition and offer our support for Senate Bill 2275, which prioritizes the political subdivision bucket in the Legacy Fund earnings stream.

The North Dakota Transportation Coalition consists of the largest twenty statewide and regional trade associations, agriculture groups, political subdivisions and business entities in the State – all of whom have a vested interest in moving goods, services and people as efficiently and safely as possible. Our purpose is to advance and enhance North Dakota's transportation infrastructure through advocacy and education efforts resulting in sustainable funding and sound public policy solutions.

The NDDOT and the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute have made it clear that over the next 20 years, approximately \$10 billion will be needed to maintain, repair and replace North Dakota's infrastructure network. Much of the burden of keeping our roads maintained falls on the political subdivisions. While they receive some continual funding through various formulas and taxes, it isn't nearly enough to meet the demand. This stream is one way to directly support those local efforts, which in turn, supports our diverse economy to move goods, services, and people safely within North Dakota.

The State of North Dakota is in an enviable financial position in many respects. We should be looking to use this fortunate position to truly invest in our infrastructure now. The need only increases the longer we continue to take a band-aid approach. Prioritizing the political subdivision stream makes economic sense to address our infrastructure needs.

The NDTC requests a DO PASS recommendation on SB 2275.

Thank you