



Senate Finance and Taxation

Testimony in Support SB 2275

Chairman Kannianen and Members of the Committee, my name is Mike Krumwiede appearing on behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies in support of SB 2275. The American Council of Engineering Companies of North Dakota (ACEC/ND) is a nonprofit, voluntary, self-governing organization which represents 27 member firms and nearly 1700 employees. The American Council of Engineering Companies of North Dakota (ACEC/ND) is the business voice of North Dakota's consulting engineering industry. ACEC Member Firms are at the heart of the built environment, bringing us bridges, roads, water, sanitation, transit, rail, buildings, environmental protection and cleanup.

ACEC North Dakota has long recognized the importance of investing in our state's critical infrastructure needs, including transportation, water, energy, buildings, airports, parks and communication systems. Beyond those, a well-maintained infrastructure is the backbone of all sectors in a healthy and vibrant economy.

While ACEC North Dakota supports occasional one-time infusions of additional funds in those areas as budgets allow, current funding shortfalls and long-term funding gaps need to be addressed with long-term funding solutions. We believe additional resources help grow a solid business environment by providing jobs in every field from health care to education. As a result, ACEC North Dakota advocates for predictable, sustainable, infrastructure support and consistent policies across all North Dakota state agencies.

This Bill seeks to move the \$400 million SIF bucket so that counties, cities, and airports can take advantage of getting projects done earlier and creating long term savings. By helping our local subdivisions keep projects moving forward and taking advantage of our limited construction season, more projects will be completed creating infrastructure to move goods to market and help local farmers and citizens travel safely on our roads and bridges.

ACEC North Dakota supports SB 2275 because it is an effective tool in the toolbox to get projects going and move infrastructure projects along earlier while investing back in our state. We believe that through fiscally and responsible infrastructure funding mechanisms we can build things more promptly to accelerate the economic recovery. Support of North Dakota's pro-business environment through agency infrastructure budgets reinforces all aspects of both the public and private sectors. For these reasons we would urge a DO PASS recommendation on SB 2275. Thank you for your time and consideration.