

January 23, 2023

To: The Honorable Senator Jordan L. Kannianen, Chairman of the Finance and Taxation Committee

Honorable Members of the Committee Senator Mark Weber, Senator Jeffrey Magrum, Senator Dale Patten, Senator Dean Rummel, and Senator Merrill Piepkorn

From: Becky Sue Hagel, Foster County Commissioner

RE: In Support of Senate Bill 2275 Relating to the State Share of Oil and Gas Taxes

Please support SB 2275 to remove the dollars for the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund. Removing this subsection will generate more dollars to be deposited to the non-oil producing counties, cities and townships. This will help alleviate the struggle we have in trying to maintain our Road and Bridge infrastructure.

Foster is one of the smallest land area counties in the state, however, we have 91 miles of roads that were paved in the 1970's. We cannot meet the maintenance required at \$1 million dollars a mile to replace asphalt. In the future, we will need to look at reclaiming some of the roads back to gravel but that cost is now \$90,000 to \$140,000 per mile. With a small tax base and a mill levy valued at a little over \$30,000, we will be hard pressed to maintain these roads without the infusion of Prairie Dog funding.

Thank you for your consideration in a DO PASS for Senate Bill 2275.

Respectfully yours,

Becky Sue Hagel

Foster County Commissioner

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