

Testimony Prepared for:
House Appropriations Committee
Government Operations Division

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By: Genny Dienstmann, NDACo



RE: Support of SB 2012
ND Dept of Transportation Budget Bill

Chairman Monson and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2012. I'm Genny Dienstmann with the ND Association of Counties and in my role, I also serve as Executive Director of the ND Association of County Engineers and Highway Superintendents.

Infrastructure needs across our state are vast and costs associated with these needs continue to grow. Counties support NDDOT's philosophy that we are one transportation system and need to work together to build a safe traveling network for all users. Rural infrastructure is a key component in our transportation system in moving commodities from farm-to-market to providing safe roads and bridges to our local residents and traveling public.

SB 2012 includes critical funding options for all levels of government. Counties support incorporating infrastructure funding bills SB 2142, SB 2151 and SB 2372 into the NDDOT budget, and support the distribution options for these funding sources. These funds will provide counties, townships and cities the needed long term, secure funding solutions to better plan and prioritize future transportation projects and help maintain our highway and bridge networks.

We also know that property tax relief and reform is a major priority for this legislative session and if local governments have limits on property tax growth, these dedicated funding sources will be vital in moving forward local infrastructure plans.

Chairman Monson and committee members, thank you for your consideration of this needed investment in our transportation infrastructure included in SB 2012.