



In Support of HB 1382
House Finance and Taxation
February 5, 2025

Chairman Headland and members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Lesley Icenogle. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association (NDCGA) in favor of House Bill 1382.

NDSU's economic contribution analysis of North Dakota's agriculture industry places ag's annual contribution to the economy at \$31 billion and more than 110,000 jobs. This contribution depends on reliable public infrastructure. Growers need a good network of farm-to-market roads to efficiently transport their crops. Additionally, well-maintained roads help ensure public safety—firefighters, ambulances, and school buses travel these routes.

Predictable, consistent funding for road infrastructure is critical. HB 1382 provides this with a three-cent fuel tax increase.

NDCGA urges your support for efforts to address the backlog of deficient local roads and bridges, including HB 1382. Thank you for your consideration, and I will stand for questions.