

Greetings, Chair and members of the Committee. I'm Matt Linneman, Deputy Director for Engineering for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I'm here to introduce and provide supportive testimony for HB 1054.

This bill creates a new section in the North Dakota Century Code, section 24-01-12.4. It would allow the NDDOT to enter into agreements with private entities, enabling sponsors to offer services that benefit the traveling public. A highway sponsorship program would provide an innovative opportunity for the NDDOT to alternatively resource the operation and maintenance of highway facilities, including, but not limited to, litter removal, rest area cleaning, or landscaping maintenance. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) allows highway sponsorship programs on the federal aid highway system.

The sponsorship program is designed to operate through the selection of a vendor, in compliance with procurement laws, to manage and oversee the program. The vendor would secure sponsorships from entities to fund activities such as litter pickup. The vendor would then hire individuals or firms to perform the work. Acknowledgment signs would be placed within the right-of-way to recognize sponsors (refer to example graphics at the end of this testimony). These signs are not classified as "logo" signage.

The NDDOT faces a growing challenge with the increasing amount of trash accumulating in state highway ditches. Participation in the current Adopt-a-Highway program has declined as volunteer groups statewide struggle to sustain their membership. This bill provides the NDDOT with an additional tool to address this issue effectively.

The NDDOT recommends a "do pass" on HB 1054. This concludes my testimony. Thank you.

Examples of Acknowledgement Signs for Highway Sponsorship



I20-1



I20-2



I20-3



I20-4



I20-4a

