

Testimony Prepared for the  
**Senate Finance & Taxation Committee**

March 24, 2025

By: Nick West PE, Grand Forks County Engineer & NDACE Legislative Committee



**RE: Support for HB 1382 – Relating to Special Fuel Excise Tax for County/City/Township Road Fund**

Chairman Weber and members of the Senate Finance & Taxation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1382. I am Nick West, the Grand Forks County Engineer, and I also serve as the past president and a member of the legislative committee for the ND Association of County Engineers (NDACE).

This is a controversial topic, but one that needs to be addressed, so thank you for bringing this topic to light. The Highway user fee account, locally known as 2150, is one of two basic funds we use for day-to-day functioning, we pay for workers compensation, purchase gas & diesel, equipment repair, and make road improvements, etc. This fund is one of our life lines. However, the last time this fund was increased was in 2005. The cost of doing business certainly has increased substantially in the last 20-years. For example, the cost of metal culverts doubled from 2017 to 2022, while this fund remained stagnant. It would be a great help to our system to see a modest increase in this fund. There's no doubt, the State of ND has made improvements to infrastructure the past few years, but the funding is variable, the funding cannot be counted on for day-to-day usage.

Chairman Weber and committee members, the NDACE and Grand Forks County would ask for a Do Pass committee recommendation as it's currently written.

Thank you for your time and service to North Dakota, Nick West.