



Senate Finance and Taxation

Testimony in Support HB 1382

Chairman Weber and Members of the Committee, my name is Mike Krumwiede appearing on behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies in support of HB 1382. The American Council of Engineering Companies of North Dakota (ACEC/ND) is a nonprofit, voluntary, self-governing organization which represents 27 member firms and nearly 1700 employees. The American Council of Engineering Companies of North Dakota (ACEC/ND) is the business voice of North Dakota's consulting engineering industry.

ACEC North Dakota has long recognized the importance of investing in our state's critical infrastructure needs, including transportation, water, energy, buildings, airports, parks and communication systems. While ACEC North Dakota supports occasional one-time infusions of additional funds in those areas as budgets allow, current funding shortfalls and long-term funding gaps need to be addressed with long-term funding solutions.

ACEC strongly supports the proposed three-cent fuel tax increase. This measure is not only necessary to address the state's growing infrastructure needs but also offers a strategic, sustainable approach to funding the maintenance and improvement of North Dakota's transportation network.

One of the most important aspects of the fuel tax increase is that it is a user-based funding mechanism. The fuel tax directly ties the cost of infrastructure maintenance to those who use the roads the most—drivers. This ensures a fair and equitable approach to funding, as it places the financial responsibility for road upkeep on those who benefit directly from the infrastructure. This user-pays principle means that the revenue generated by the fuel tax will be reinvested directly into transportation projects, from resurfacing roads and replacing bridges to improving safety features.

ACEC of North Dakota supports HB 1382 because this increase will provide the stable funding needed to maintain and improve North Dakota's transportation network and would urge a DO PASS recommendation.