

Support of HB1382

Senate Finance and Taxation Committee

March 24, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Weber and Committee members.

I am Larry Syverson from Mayville. I grow soybeans on my farm in Traill County. I am the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Roseville Township in Traill County and the Executive Director of the North Dakota Township Officers Association. NDTOA represents 6,000 Township Officers serving more than 1,400 dues-paying member townships.

Thank you for this opportunity for me to say that NDTOA supports this very reasonable user fee increase for the benefit of local governments. The buying power of existing funds and levies continues to shrink, and the demands on infrastructure continue to grow. Now, the local governments are certain to face added limitations on their ability to levy property taxes; the fuel tax / road-user fee is one way they can partially fill the funding shortage that will be created.

The road user fee/fuel tax is the best way to ensure that out-of-state drivers help support the roads they drive on. Why should the benefits of our Legacy Fund go to providing roads and highways for out-of-state drivers?

I grow soybeans. At harvest, we haul the beans 20 miles to the elevator using tandem trucks. They burn a lot of gas on that trip. The better the yield, the more it costs, and that is okay with me. I pay a lot of tax on all those gallons of gasoline, but if it goes to make the roads better for my trucks, it is worth it. I wouldn't mind paying more if I knew that the resurfacing of Traill County 16 would get done sooner. It would save on my trucks and the driver.

We would support an amendment to include the townships in the oil-producing counties too.

Chairman Weber and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify today. Please give HB1382 your favorable consideration. This concludes my prepared statement. I will try to answer any questions you might have.