



House Appropriations Committee

Testimony in Support HB 1431

Chairman Delzer and Members of the Committee, my name is Mike Krumwiede appearing on behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies in support of HB 1431. The American Council of Engineering Companies of North Dakota (ACEC/ND) is a nonprofit, voluntary, self-governing organization which represents 29 member firms and nearly 1500 employees. The American Council of Engineering Companies of North Dakota (ACEC/ND) is the business voice of North Dakota's consulting engineering industry. ACEC Member Firms are at the heart of the built environment, bringing us bridges, roads, water, sanitation, transit, rail, buildings, environmental protection and cleanup.

ACEC North Dakota has long recognized the importance of investing in our states critical infrastructure needs, including transportation, water, energy, buildings, airports, parks and communication systems. Beyond those, a well-maintained infrastructure is the backbone of all sectors in a healthy and vibrant economy.

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. We believe additional resources help grow a solid business environment by providing jobs in every field from health care to education. As a result, ACEC North Dakota advocates for predictable, sustainable, infrastructure support and consistent policies across all North Dakota state agencies.

Recently American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) published a report card outlining the status of infrastructure in the state of North Dakota. This Report Card is the first of its kind for the state of North Dakota, providing a snapshot for eight categories of infrastructure: Bridges, Dams, Drinking Water, Energy, Levees, Roads, Transit, and Wastewater. Our state's infrastructure received an overall GPA of C, which is slightly better than the national GPA of D+. A GPA letter grade of C means the infrastructure in our state is in mediocre condition. Our networks show general signs of deterioration and require attention, and some elements exhibit significant deficiencies in conditions and functionality, with increasing vulnerability to risk. I have included a copy of this report card at the end of my testimony.

ACEC North Dakota supports HB 1431 because it is an effective tool in the toolbox to get projects going and move infrastructure projects along earlier while investing back in our state. We believe that through fiscally and responsible infrastructure funding mechanisms we can build things more promptly to accelerate the economic recovery. Support of North Dakota's pro-business environment through agency infrastructure budgets reinforces all aspects of both the public and private sectors. For these reasons we would urge a DO PASS recommendation on HB 1431. Thank you for your time and consideration.