



## **North Dakota Grain Growers Association Testimony in Support of HCR 3019 House Transportation Committee February 11, 2021**

Chairman Ruby, members of the House Transportation Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland, Executive Director of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). NDGGA, through our contracts with the North Dakota Wheat Commission and the North Dakota Barley Council, engages in domestic policy issues on the state and federal level on behalf of North Dakota wheat and barley farmers. I am providing testimony for you today on behalf of NDGGA in support of HCR 3019.

Chairman Ruby, members of the House Transportation Committee, this is a long-needed study regarding the impacts US Fish and Wildlife Service easements have on North Dakota infrastructure and North Dakota taxpayers. One only has to travel Interstate 94 in North Dakota from Bismarck to Fargo to witness first-hand what US Fish and Wildlife Service land and water mismanagement has meant to North Dakota roads; this obvious mismanagement by US Fish and Wildlife Service is found not only on North Dakota interstate highways but it can be witnessed throughout North Dakota highways, county and township roads and even extending to negatively impacting landowners that have the unfortunate experience of having one of these easements on their land or owning land adjacent to them. This forces the North Dakota Department of Transportation, counties, cities and townships to redirect limited resources to address easement mismanagement instead of directing those resources to positively benefit the state and its citizens. Nowhere else would such a scenario exist and it costs everyone.

Chairman Ruby, members of the House Transportation Committee, HCR 3019 is a welcome and needed study for our state. It would be even better if the federal government joined in; I believe the negative impacts found both on the state and federal levels would be staggering. Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association would respectfully request that the House Transportation Committee give HCR 3019 a Do Pass recommendation and would urge the full House to concur.

*"You Raise; We Represent"*

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