

HB 1175
Senate IBL Committee
March 10, 2021

RE: North Dakota Concrete Council – Support of HB 1175

Chairman Klein and Members of the Senate IBL Committee,

When the COVID-19 crisis began in early 2020, the construction and construction materials sectors safely, quickly and effectively rolled up their collective sleeves and went to work to keep the United States economy rolling to the best of its ability. Here in North Dakota, we were fortunate to be able to operate with safeguards but no shutdowns. Construction is essential.

The safety of our workforce is the top priority for members of the North Dakota Concrete Council. Following local and federal guidelines, as well as industry-developed safety best practices, and employing extra precautions recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Occupational Safety and Health Administration, our members were able to provide well-paying jobs to thousands of North Dakotans at a time when many other businesses were struggling to keep workers employed or were shutting down.

Our members acted in good faith to protect our workforce and the general public while conducting business. We are asking for safe harbor from COVID-19 related lawsuits that have been cropping up across the country.

Over 30 states have passed COVID-19 liability protection. North Dakota needs to follow suit and pass legislation that holds poor decisions and ill intentions accountable while protecting businesses that strive to meet or exceed public health regulations.

On behalf of the members of the North Dakota Concrete Council and our industry, we urge a DO PASS recommendation on HB 1175.

Respectfully submitted,



Art Thompson
Executive Director, NDCC

About

The North Dakota Concrete Council is comprised of ready-mix concrete production companies, cement manufacturers, raw material suppliers, and concrete pavement contractors throughout the state. All totaled, the production and distribution of concrete is a \$100 million annual industry for the state; factor in the placement aspect and the industry provided conservatively \$500 million of economic impact. Ready-mix concrete production companies are locally operated facilities with a limited-service area due to the perishable nature of our product. Unlike other specialized industries, we provide economic impact throughout every corner of the state and we employ thousands North Dakotans.