

Written testimony of Kelly Bengtson on HF1058

Hello Rep. Hornstein,

I am retired from my job as the Kittson County Engineer and now am working in a transportation research job here at NDSU. I would like to ask you for your support of HF 1058 which would drop the requirement to have residency in Minn. for County Engineers as Kittson & Roseau Co. are both vacant now and have been for nearly a year. They have candidates who are licensed in Minn. and ND but reside in ND and are interested in the job but do not want to reside in Minn. on a full time basis. This bill would help both counties and other counties that struggle to replace their engineer from a good pool of candidates. Kittson already has a licensed land surveyor on staff but he lives in ND, he is also a licensed Mn engineer so he may be interested in the position but the current statute makes him non eligible. Sharing an engineer with an adjacent county on a long term basis is not a good situation as the daily supervision of staff, road maintenance operations, and of course road & bridge project design, delivery and management becomes overwhelming. The recent pandemic has proven that many people can work remotely with a high level of performance, efficiency and success. Therefore, living in your work state should no longer be a requirement by statute.

Thanks.

Kelly Bengtson, P. E.

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