



Senator Gene Therriault  
SPONSOR STATEMENT

**SB 53 – Making a special appropriation for bridge repair and construction and road construction.**

The intent of Senate Bill 53 is to once again provide a focus point for legislators to understand more clearly the structural integrity and corresponding repair needs of our current system of highway bridges.

The Department of Transportation will provide a list, photographs and a detailed report of the bridges it has deemed in need of critical repair. This first phase of this effort is underway with a portion of funding to work down the list of these deficient bridges.

As we prepare for the great loads of infrastructure needed for the gas line and other statewide projects, the need for bridge repairs and/or replacements is more important than ever. Increasing both the number and weight of loads over these bridges demands the highest level of attention by those who design and maintain them. Senate Bill 53 brings this issue back before the legislature so policy makers can be made aware of the highest priority projects and what funding is needed to address them.