

Testimony – Bart Andersen, MnDOT Bridge Inspector
Senate Transportation Committee hearing on SF 2657
March 28, 2006

My name is Bart Andersen. I'm a member of AFSCME Local 2792 and a bridge inspector for the Department of Transportation's metro maintenance crew.

I'm here today to raise concerns about outsourcing our work.

It concerns me that the Department of Transportation's first order of business, shortly after receiving specially allocated funds for bridge preservation, was to immediately sign contracts with the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul to do bridge flushing. In the past, this essential part of preventative maintenance had always been done by MnDOT bridge crews.

Last summer the Department of Transportation chose to contract out full-depth concrete repairs on a stretch of 35W near Industrial Blvd., during the course of the Camden night crew's emergency repairs of blow-ups in that area. This is work routinely done by the Camden crew.

The Department of Transportation is giving our work to private contractors. It's hard for state workers to see this happening on a routine basis. Please don't let outsourcing become a trend in Minnesota. It's bad for workers and commuters.