North Dakota is falling behind. Current IT infrastructure is inadequate to support growing research needs. (See map below showing ND infrastructure vs. the rest of the Northern Tier.)

- Northern Tier Network has been funded in each biennium through the North Dakota University System budget until 2017.
- Investment is necessary to support research and collaboration of North Dakota research universities among regional and national peers, including University of Minnesota and University of South Dakota, as well as national laboratories and cloud providers.

As the two Internet2 members, NDSU and UND are committed to pay the fee that allows all North Dakota University System and K12 schools access to the collaboration infrastructure.

The $5.7 million request:
- funds infrastructure upgrades to catch up with peers
- is evenly split between NDSU and UND
- supports connecting users throughout the state with the best access to high performance computing

100G backbone link currently bypasses ND. We need to activate on-ramp in Fargo and upgrade all of ND to 100G.