



AAA-The Auto Club Group
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January 7, 2021

Senator David Clemens
State Capitol
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505

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Chairman Clemens and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on SB 2026. My name is Tiffany Hauser, I serve as the Director of Government Relations for AAA- North Dakota. AAA was founded around the principal of advocating on behalf of the motoring public by supporting policies that keep roads safe and preserve the condition of roads and bridges while also growing our robust economy. On behalf of AAA North Dakota's 69,000 members I am here today to voice concerns with the changes proposed in SB 2026 that would allow trucks weighing 360,000 pounds and as long as 200 feet – the configuration called a “road train” -- to travel throughout North Dakota.

AAA has been opposed to heavier and longer trucks for a number of years. Studies have clearly determined that as weight and length are added, these vehicles become more dangerous to our members and the motoring public at large. USDOT found that multi-trailer trucks are expected to experience an 11% higher overall fatal crash rate than single trailer combinations. A 2013 study found double-trailer trucks have a 15.5% higher fatal crash rate than single-trailer trucks.

In addition, our members, as taxpayers, will be in the position of paying for the road and bridge damage that this heavier and longer configuration would cause. We already face a national infrastructure crisis. Allowing heavier trucks on the road could add billions to that already high price tag of needed bridge and road repairs. Our bridges here in North Dakota already rank 9th worst in the nation, by percentage, with 4,329 bridges in fair/poor condition. That is over 10 percent of all bridges statewide, according to the 2019 Federal Highway Administration report. The proposed road trains will only make the situation worse and increase the burden on taxpayers.

AAA's responsibly, like that of our elected officials, is to put the safety of our state's residents first. Asking our residents to share their roads with these mega-trucks in a pilot program represents an unacceptable level of risk. Due to these serious safety risks and infrastructure concerns posed by allowing heavier and larger trucks on the roadways, AAA urges a “Do Not Pass” recommendation on SB 2026.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our position on this important issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tiffany Hauser', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tiffany Hauser

AAA-The Auto Club Group (ACG) is a membership based, non-profit corporation operating in fourteen states and two US Territories. It is one of the largest American Automobile Association (AAA) clubs in the United States with approximately 14 million members. ACG provides travel, insurance, automotive, and financial services to its members. In North Dakota, AAA – The Auto Club Group serves more than 69,000 members and works to represent the interests of members and the traveling public in the state legislature.