



AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Louise S. Barry Auditorium, Richard H. Barry Hall, North Dakota State University
Fargo, North Dakota

Senator Randy D. Lemm, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Members present: Senators Randy D. Lemm, Jay R. Elkin*, Larry Luick, Janne Myrdal, Merrill Piepkorn, Terry M. Wanzek; Representatives Mike Beltz, Mike Brandenburg, Chuck Damschen*, Dori Hauck*, Dennis Johnson, Dave Nehring, Kathy Skroch, Paul J. Thomas, Wayne A. Trottier, Bill Tveit

Members absent: Senators Michael Dwyer, Robert O. Fors, Oley Larson; Representative Dwight Kiefert

Others present: Representative Kim Koppleman, West Fargo, member of the Legislative Management
See [Appendix A](#) for additional persons present.

**Attended remotely*

It was moved by Senator Wanzek, seconded by Senator Myrdal, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the February 15, 2022, meeting be approved as distributed.

Dr. David Cook, President, North Dakota State University, presented information regarding the goals of the university and the university's relationship with members of the agriculture industry within the state. He noted:

- During his first few months as President of North Dakota State University (NDSU), he toured the state and met with several stakeholders to learn more about North Dakota;
- NDSU is an "R-1" research facility according to the Carnegie Research Classifications, which is the top tier for research institutions in the United States;
- As North Dakota's only land-grant university, it is a priority for NDSU to remain committed to the agriculture industry.

Mr. Michael Kisse, Program Manager, Maintenance Division, Department of Transportation, and Alan Dybing, Assistant Professor, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, presented information ([Appendix B](#)) pertaining to the findings of the North Dakota Department of Transportation's Long Combination Vehicle Pilot Program report ([Appendix C](#)), mandated by Senate Bill No. 2026 (2021).

In response to the presentation, a committee member noted:

- European countries use steering dollies on narrow roads. The same technology could be used in the United States and North Dakota;
- Increased safety is possible if brakes are placed on every axle of a long combination vehicle;
- The federal government is not allowing the pilot program to operate on the national highway system;
- Attempts have been made to work with the Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, and Senator John Hoeven to use the national highway network in this study; and
- Several transportation companies volunteered to participate in the pilot project, but withdrew after learning the national highway system could not be used.

In response to questions from committee members, Mr. Dybing noted:

- The study was valuable because of the long combination vehicle pilot projects;

- The value of the study would have been greater if the pilot project would have included the national highway system; and
- The safety guidelines discussed in the presentation apply only to long combination vehicles, not farm equipment.

In response to questions from committee members, Mr. Kisse noted:

- The Department of Transportation sent a letter to a contact in Washington D.C. to request a waiver to use the national highway system in the pilot project; and
- North Dakota's Congressional Delegation indicated that to make a formal waiver request, industry leaders also would have to submit letters to the federal government.

Mr. Dustin A. Richard, Counsel, Legislative Council, presented a summary ([Appendix D](#)) of The Landowner Easement Rights Act or H.R. 7021 ([Appendix E](#)) as H.R. 7021 relates to the committee's study of United States Fish and Wildlife Service easements in North Dakota.

Mr. Harrison Weber, Executive Director, Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association, presented testimony regarding the the removal of deliniators on North Dakota's highway system as the deliniators were interfering with agriculture producer's ability to navigate the highway system.

Mr. Dan Wogsland, Executive Director, North Dakota Grain Grower's Association, invited committee members to the association's annual environmental tour in Fargo.

Ms. Sarah Lovas, Chair, State Board of Agricultural Research and Education, expressed gratitude to the committee for holding the meeting at NDSU and for the committee's support of agricultural research throughout the state.

It was moved by Senator Luick, seconded by Representative Johnson, and carried on a voice vote that the Chairman and the Legislative Council staff be requested to prepare a report and the bill draft recommended by the committee to present the report and recommend the bill draft to the Legislative Management.

Chairman Lemm informed the committee the public bus tour of agriculture facilities on the main campus of NDSU will begin at 12:45 p.m.

It was moved by Representative Johnson, seconded by Senator Wanzek and carried on a voice vote that the committee be adjourned sine die.

No further business appearing, Chairman Lemm adjourned the committee sine die at 11:19 a.m.

Dustin A. Richard
Counsel

ATTACH:5