



AAA-The Auto Club Group
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March 3, 2021

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Representative Dan Ruby
State Capitol
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505

Chairman Ruby and Members of the House Transportation Committee,

AAA-The Auto Club Group (North Dakota) supports good public policy that grows our economy and will also support our principles of keeping roads safe and preserving the condition of roads and bridges. We are concerned, however, by 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. 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. This at a time when an increase in the state gas tax is being considered.

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.

For the reasons outlined above, AAA urges a “Do Not Pass” recommendation on SB 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene LaDoucer".

Gene LaDoucer
Public Affairs Director

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.