

Good morning, Mr. Chairman members of the committee. I'm Mike Gerhart, Director of State Fleet for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I'm here to support HB 1055.

House Bill 1055 simplifies the current state accident review board and changes the word "accident" to "crash" to be consistent with other laws. North Dakota Century Code currently states that a review board be established. The board reviews any crashes involving a state-owned or state-leased vehicle driven by a state employee which involves bodily injury or significant property damage. The board meets quarterly and reviews major crashes, as well as reports from other agency review boards or loss control committees. All other state-owned vehicle crashes are currently reviewed by State Fleet. This bill dissolves the board and requires NDDOT and Risk Management review all crashes.

This change will simplify the review process. Allowing the NDDOT and Risk Management to review all crashes will be advantageous as they can meet sooner and more often than the larger board. It would also give the NDDOT the ability to restrict state employees from driving State Fleet vehicles in the event a driver has repeated offenses. Currently, the NDDOT and the accident review board have no say over who can or can't drive. The NDDOT can only make recommendations to the agencies on how to discipline drivers who habitually receive citations or who have been in repeated crashes.

In closing, House Bill 1055 is a red tape reduction bill which streamlines the crash review process while providing the NDDOT and Risk Management the ability to increase accountability and promote safety. I would ask for your support passing this bill. This concludes my testimony. Thank You.

