

House Bill 1064

Presented by: Konrad Crockford
Public Service Commission

Before: House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Honorable Austen Schauer, Chair

Date: January 06, 2023

TESTIMONY

Mr. Chair and members of the committee, I'm Konrad Crockford, Director of Compliance, here to testify on behalf of the Public Service Commission (Commission).

The North Dakota One-Call System promotes safe digging in the State to protect millions of dollars of underground infrastructure, excavators from an unsafe strike, and the impacted public. Excavation is the leading cause of damage to underground facilities. Facility damage, possible injury, or loss of life can often be prevented when the excavator and the facility operator work together to identify the location of the facilities. This cooperative relationship starts with the One-Call System.

The Commission is the agency designated to coordinate in the advancement and enforcement of the One-Call law. To this extent, the Commission works to ensure the One-Call law keeps up with industry and the evolving regulatory environment which includes incorporating clarifications, changes, and recommendations identified by National Transportation Safety Board incident investigations. Funding for damage prevention education,

outreach, and enforcement actions is provided to the Commission through a grant administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA).

During a recent federal grant audit administered by PHMSA, there was some discussion of whether dredging was covered under the current One-Call law. While the Commission believes dredging meets the definition of excavation found in the One Call Law, HB 1064 was submitted at the request of the Commission to ensure clarity in the law's application.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for your time and I am available for questions.