

January 25, 2023

Jesse Hoffart
West Fargo, ND 58078

Dear Members of the House Transportation Committee:

I write in support of HB 1295 and its removal of the front license plate requirements on motor vehicles in North Dakota.

As automakers design vehicles, they continue to work towards improved aerodynamics and performance with an end goal that yields better fuel economy and attractive designs. Often times these vehicles are manufactured with no consideration for a front license plate due to these design goals. Important safety technology such as proximity and traffic sensors are present on the front grills of modern vehicles. These sensors can be impeded or damaged by attempts to install a front plate. Another consideration is airflow to critical engine components such as radiator and intercoolers are also impeded by front license plates.

Currently there are 21 other states that do not require a front license plate. Alaska and Ohio being the latest to do so. Referring to Ohio's decision to stop requiring front plates starting July 1st of 2020, trooper Jessica McIntyre, spokesperson for the Ohio state Highway Patrol, admitted that doing away with the requirement will be a "breath of fresh air" for motorists and later She said "We adapt to changes. The patrol does and other agencies as well. So it doesn't pose a problem." So, if 21 other states have been able to adapt to the removal of front license plates I believe North Dakota can as well.

With so many other states not requiring a front license plate and some vehicles not being designed for them, buying a vehicle produced for North Dakota with a front license bracket could result in damage to the vehicle as in a lot of cases holes have to be drilled into the front bumper cover to accommodate the front license plate. This can result in a lower resale value for those consumers and business owners if they should happen to sell their vehicle to someone in a state that does not require a front license plate. It's an economic burden for the North Dakota consumer and dealership owners in more ways than one.

Money and natural resources will be conserved when a single plate is produced and delivered to car owners. There is an ever-accumulating amount of gas that is burnt up needlessly from the reduced aerodynamics from front license plates. The aluminum in the plates goes waste as they are thrown into landfills. Both gas and aluminum are non-renewable natural resources that we will never see again. Removing the requirement for the front license plate in North Dakota will help conserve both, thus helping the environment.

Please support HB 1295 and its removal of the front license plate requirements on motor vehicles in North Dakota.

Jesse Hoffart
West Fargo, ND