

Testimony – HB 1346
House Transportation Committee
January 19, 2023
By Cody Schulz
Director, ND Parks and Recreation

Good morning Chairman Ruby and members of the House Transportation Committee, my name is Cody Schulz. I am the Director of the North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department. I offer this testimony in opposition to HB 1346 as it is currently written.

I understand the motivation for the proposed changes to out of state snowmobile registration, but I do have concerns that the unintended consequences to our operations and enforcement could outweigh the benefits. I have two primary concerns. First, our current operations are almost exclusively virtual – people can purchase a permit online and carry an electronic or printed copy of the permit as proof of purchase. If a physical permit is required to be processed and mailed it would entail a minimum of a three-day turn-around for processing and mailing and could result in people not adhering to the permit requirements for spur of the moment trips into North Dakota. Simply put, the current process is simple for the consumer and operationally efficient for the ND Parks and Recreation team. Secondly, there is currently symmetry between the out-of-state public trails and lands access permit process for snowmobiles and for Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) governed by NDCC 39-29. If this bill were to pass, we would have inconsistent requirements for the same purpose based on the vehicle type.

For your consideration, I have also included some statistics for the past few years out-of-state public trails and lands access permits.

Yearly Average Snowmobile Permits Sold	111
Yearly Average OHV Permits Sold	307

On behalf of North Dakota Parks and Recreation, I recommend HB 1346, as written, receive a Do Not Pass. I would gladly participate in committee meetings to draft amendments to ensure that this or any other bill of this nature does not have unintended and negative consequences in regards to safety and enforcement.

Thank you for your time; I will do my best to answer any questions you may have.