

TESTIMONY

Senate Transportation Committee

HB 1295

Matt Bjornson

Bjornson Oil Company Inc.

Cavalier, ND

Chairman Clemens and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 1295. Our small family owned petroleum business has three retail stores in North Dakota. Drive Offs have been a major problem, one that is getting worse. We have invested over \$65000 for our three stores for advanced video surveillance systems. The capturing of front license plates has been essential for catching those who drive off without paying. Law enforcement has been helpful in finding people who choose this form of theft. Even with all our efforts, and with the help of the good people in law enforcement, our losses for drive offs last year were \$16416.79. That is a big number for a small company.

In past years, going all the way back to 2005, the legislature has rejected bills eliminating front license plates 6 times. With all due respect, I have to wonder why certain legislators want to harm small business and affect public safety for the sake of vanity. This bill is about not wanting to put front plates on sport cars.

Finally, I would like to share that the existence of front plates facilitated one of our clerks in reporting an extremely intoxicated customer who was in the store buying milk. They were personally compelled to immediately report the situation, they could see car seats in the customers vehicle. The driver was apprehended shortly thereafter.

I respectfully ask for your votes against HB 1295. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Matt Bjornson