



ND Petroleum Marketers Association  
ND Retail Association



**Testimony HB 1295**

March 2, 2023 –Senate Transportation

Chairman Clemens and members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Mike Rud. I'm the President of the North Dakota Petroleum Marketers Association. NDPMA represents nearly 600 gas retailers from across the state. On behalf of our association members, I'm here urging a **"DO NOT PASS" on HB 1295. This bill is quite simply a solution in search of a problem.**

HB 1295 is an old friend. The requirement for a plate on the front and back has been vetted numerous times. Each time it has been defeated. No one begrudges another person having a "sports" car. However, the reality is a change to one license plate will only benefit a small percentage of the population. Vanity should not be the justification for proposing a change to a law that is currently working.

Public security and safety must remain the State's top priorities. Border patrol and law enforcement are hampered by any erosion of the current requirement. Many retailers have invested large sums of money in video surveillance equipment. Convenience store owners have willingly provided much needed information, including facial recognition and license plate numbers during burglaries, Amber and Silver alerts, abductions, etc. I would bet in many cases, the two license plates now on ND vehicles have been key to quicker apprehensions. The number one incentive for store owners to install all of this

outdoor video surveillance has been license plate capture. Take away that incentive and you take away a valuable law enforcement tool.

**Secondly, gas drive offs remain a problem across many parts of ND. Make no mistake, in the simplest terms drive-offs are retail fuel theft and aren't taken lightly by business and law enforcement.**

ND law enforcement officials have enough issues to deal with in this day and age. It's hard to place a priority on running down a drive off when you have no license plate number to follow up on in the investigation.

NDPMA urges the state not to tread down a slippery slope. If things aren't broken, don't fix them. NDPMA asks for a **DO NOT PASS recommendation on HB 1295.**