

Testimony in support of House Concurrent Resolution 3009

Mr. Chair and members of the Senate Transportation Committee thank you for allowing me to speak in support of House Concurrent Resolution 3009.

My name is Justin Kristan, I am the Founder and Executive Director of Bike Walk North Dakota (formerly the North Dakota Active Transportation Alliance), North Dakota's statewide advocacy organization for bicycling and walking. Bike Walk North Dakota (BWND) is working to make bicycling, walking and rolling more convenient and safer in the state of North Dakota. This is being done through cooperative efforts with local, regional, and statewide entities.

Since its inception (2015), North Dakota Share the Road Safety Week has been recognized as a one-week series of educational events in the third week of June. Former House of Representatives member, Gail Mooney of Hillsborough, North Dakota spearheaded the formation of the original resolution due to two bicycling fatalities in the summer of 2014 caused by distracted driving.

The second week of May would allow local, regional, and statewide entities to "get in front of" the summer bicycling and walking season. This adjusted timing will also allow for opportunities to work with public schools, and higher education establishments in North Dakota. The potential to reach adults and children as they are beginning to "dust off" their bicycles and walking shoes is immense. May is also, national Bike Month which is led by the League of American Bicyclists. The synergistic effect could be very helpful in reaching out to media as well.

The key principle of the Share the Road Safety Week has not been changed from the original House Concurrent Resolution first recognized in June 2015. Educating motorists and non-motorists to work cooperatively on public roadways so everyone gets home safe and sound.

I am respectfully requesting that you support House Concurrent Resolution 3009 which will make the second week of May, North Dakota Share the Road Safety Week for 2023 and 2024.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 3009.

Respectfully,

Justin Kristan

Executive Director,

Bike Walk North Dakota