

January 8, 2025

Chair Dan Ruby and Members of the Committee
Committee on Transportation
North Dakota House of Representatives

RE: House Bill 1050 – License Plate Readers – Support

Dear Chair Ruby and Members of the Committee:

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) is a national, century-old, not-for-profit organization supported by approximately 1,200 property and casualty insurance companies, including many who write business in North Dakota. Working hand-in-hand with our member companies and North Dakota law enforcement, we help to detect, prevent, and deter insurance crimes, including vehicle theft. While NICB provides value to our member companies, we also serve a significant public benefit by helping to stem the estimated billions of dollars in economic harm that insurance crime causes to individual policyholders across the country every year.

License Plate Reader (LPR) technology is an invaluable tool in combating all manner of crime, including vehicle theft. The information collected by LPR systems is wholly consistent with Fourth Amendment principles in terms of expectation of privacy in public spaces. Law enforcement uses LPR data to assist in investigating and prosecuting vehicle thefts and other crimes in order to protect the safety of our communities.

Law enforcement agencies and communities across the United States continue to be plagued by record levels of vehicular crime as monthly theft totals nationwide consistently exceeded 80,000 in 2023. According to analysis conducted by NICB, 1,449 vehicles were stolen in North Dakota in 2023.

House Bill 1050 provides law enforcement with additional tools to investigate crime and combat vehicle theft. This proposal would go a long way towards helping stem the tide of vehicle crime in North Dakota.

Accordingly, we ask for your strong support of House Bill 1050.

We thank you for scheduling a hearing and for considering our views as you deliberate the merits of the bill. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at csepich@nicb.org or (847) 772-7667.

Sincerely,

Craig Sepich

Craig Sepich
Director
Office of Strategy, Policy, & Government Affairs
National Insurance Crime Bureau