

- Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Lowell and I farm in the Kulm area. I am speaking in favor of House Bill 1407. I believe it is critical that North Dakota's truck load limits are similar to South Dakota, Montana and Canadian neighbors. Grain transportation costs are a large cost to my farm operation and therefore I am looking to do whatever possible to reduce them. It is also makes sense to mirror our neighboring states to facilitate trade. We haul soybeans and corn to South Dakota processing plants.

It appears that **HB 1407** increases the maximum load weight from 105,500 pounds to 113,000 pounds. (Why 113,000) This is step in the right direction. The increase from 105,500 to 113,000 pounds would eliminate 49 trips to delivery destinations for my 2024 crop. This amounts to a savings of about \$4000. Another interesting example is if I was to go from a regular 80,000 pound load to 113,000 pound load I would eliminate 184 trips. To obtain the 113,000 pound load we pull a 40 foot hopper trailer followed by a 20 foot pup (doubles). The double configuration is important because no axles are loaded to maximum capability. The reduction in trips will result is less wear to our highways.

Our drivers must have a commercial drivers license with a doubles endorsement. We have been doing this for many years with zero accidents or mishaps. Safety is very important in transporting our ag products and that's why we employ the best drivers.

Labor is a huge challenge for North Dakota producers and this adjustment in weight limits is a step in the right direction.

I am not sure how 113,000 pounds was determined. My support HB 1407 would be contingent on North Dakota load limits alining with our boarder states

Thanks for your consideration, Lowell Berntson, 701-830-0554. bfarm@drtel.net