



# U.S. Durum Growers Association

*PROMOTING THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF DURUM AND SEMOLINA*

P.O. Box 1091 • Bismarck, ND 58502 • (701) 214-3203  
office@durumgrowers.com • www.durumgrowers.com

**Testimony of Steve Perdue  
President  
HB 1421  
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Chairman Ruby and members of the House Transportation Committee, my name is Steve Perdue, and I'm a farmer from Ray and serve as the President of the U.S. Durum Growers Association (USDGA). On behalf of the USDGA, we oppose HB 1421 due to the burdensome registration of farm tractors and unfeasibility of speed limitations.

USDGA has served to promote the production and marketing of durum wheat and semolina since 1978. The association represents grower and industry members from 10 states. We have many members from North Dakota as the acres produced in the state account for just over half of the country's durum production. Due to durum's hardness, density, high protein, and color it is milled into semolina which is ideal for use in premium pasta.

USDGA is opposed to adding farm tractors to vehicle registration requirements. These tractors spend limited time on access-controlled, paved and divided multilane interstate highways while traveling to access property, which has limited to no access from other road types. Additionally, due to the amount of tractors each operation utilizes, this bill would add another input cost in an already high input and low commodity prices market.

HB 1421 also proposes speed limitations of 40 mph unless a farm tractor is followed by a motor vehicle operating a flashing hazard warning signal. As mentioned before, time traveled on these access-controlled, paved and divided, multilane interstate highways are limited in time and distance. Therefore, this language isn't feasible in all crossing and traveling situations.

Thank you for the opportunity for USDGA to submit written testimony in opposition to HB 1421 and urge a 'Do Not Pass' recommendation.