



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Opposition to HB 1421
House Agriculture Committee
January 24, 2025**

Chairman Beltz, Members of the House Agriculture Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland representing the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). I appear before you today in opposition to HB 1421.

HB 1421 raises taxes on farmers, creates farm operational inefficiency, provides unwarranted and unworkable mandates, is unenforceable and does nothing to improve public safety.

To be sure, the last thing farmers and ranchers want is to transport farm equipment down the interstate highway system. That said, transporting farm equipment down the interstate system may be the only way that a farmer can reasonably get from one location to another. This could be because of inundated roads caused by US Fish and Wildlife Service easements, seasonal flooding, lack of road maintenance due to a lack of funding or a host of other factors which limit the farmer reasonable access to their operations. To further impede this access by unreasonable regulation is simply unworkable and unnecessary.

The one hundred dollars fee and the two hundred dollars fine proposed in the bill are simply tax increases on agriculture.

The new language on page 4, Section 6 lines 8-16 is regulatory over-reach and unnecessary.

Page 5, Section 7, lines 6-9, provides for additional logistical and labor challenges for farmers especially during times of planting and harvest. This usually has been a one-person operation in most cases; now requiring at least two people become involved in farm equipment movements is an unreasonable and unfunded mandate on agriculture. Additionally, today's farm equipment is easily recognizable and has safety warnings and lights that are readily visible to the motoring public.

Finally mandating a minimum speed, instead of promoting public safety could in fact endanger not only the motoring public but the farm equipment operator as well. What if, even though a farm implement has a 40 mile per hour or greater speed ability, conditions

warrant a slower speed because of safety concerns. North Dakota weather, as we all know, can change on a dime. Interstate speeds, no matter what the vehicle, should take into consideration the surrounding conditions and not an arbitrary speed mandate.

Chairman Beltz, Members of the House Agriculture Committee, NDGGA respectfully requests a Do Not Pass recommendation on HB 1421 and we would urge the full House to concur.