

Testimony of Kevin Klipfel
Bismarck Parks and Recreation District
To Senate State and Local Government Committee
In Opposition to HB 1259
March 21, 2025

Chairman Roers and Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee. My name is Kevin Klipfel, and I am executive director of the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD). I would like to express our concerns about eliminating Daylight Saving Time in North Dakota, which would significantly impact outdoor activities during the spring, summer and fall months for users of BPRD's parks, trails and facilities.

Most of BPRD's outdoor spaces, such as parks, trails, volleyball courts, soccer fields, golf courses, and baseball and softball fields do not have lights. Installing lights can be expensive and is not an option in many of these areas.

Losing an hour of daylight would negatively impact BPRD's outdoor programs and participants. For example, BPRD's adult summer sand volleyball program starts May 18 this year and runs into early August. This program operates Sunday through Thursday starting at 6 p.m. each evening. The last game of the night starts at 8:15 p.m. so it is finished by sunset. Shifting to Permanent Standard Time would mean eliminating one game per night and most likely reducing the number of teams that could play each summer and therefore opportunities for people to be active and outdoors.

This same impact would extend to all BPRD evening youth and adult outdoor programs, as well as those of our many partner groups who use our facilities, including baseball, golf, pickleball, softball, tennis, and volleyball. Outdoor space is at a premium in our community, and eliminating an hour of daylight during the spring, summer and fall would result in fewer youth and adults being able to participate in these activities.

Reducing the opportunity for people to be outdoors and active during the spring, summer and fall months is the wrong direction for our community.

I urge a do not pass recommendation on HB 1259. Thank you for your consideration.