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Greg M'Cormick, President/CEO
Molly Barnes, Executive Vice-President

March 24, 2025

State and Local Government Committee. Thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to HB 1259.

My name is Molly Barnes. I am a fourth generation owner of Northern Improvement Company. Although we work all over the state, we have offices in Fargo, Bismarck and Dickinson North Dakota.

I am writing to express my concern about HB 1259. This bill would eliminate the time change.

I have read some of the testimony where claims have been made that the elimination of daylight savings time will be beneficial for construction workers, this couldn't be further from the truth. It will cost construction companies and workers lost revenue and lost wages due to less available daylight working hours. As it is now the sun will rise at 5:49 am on June 21, 2025, in Bismarck, ND and if we eliminate daylight savings time, the sun will rise at 4:49 am on that same day. Both the Cities of Bismarck and Fargo do not allow contractors to work in city limits prior to 7:00 am. Under this bill, we have now lost an hour of working daylight. Now the sunset will also come early, so we will lose another hour of daylight working toward the end of the day. That is two hours of working time we have lost. If we don't change the clocks ahead in the spring, we will lose two hours of working daylight all summer long. This is especially important considering most contractors in ND do seasonal work (6-7 months) due to our climate. It is also unlikely that Bismarck of Fargo or any other larger city is going to approve earlier start times because of this law change.

Let's say the cities repealed the 7 am start time. Can you imagine the fury of that would result in hearing backup alarms and construction equipment moving around at 5 am? I can just imagine the social media posts.

Well, if this bill passes one of two things must happen, either the contractor loses an hour of work or the contractor starts an hour earlier and causes loud noises when more people will still be sleeping. All of this doesn't even consider the fact that there will be one less hour of daylight in the evening for anyone to enjoy summer activities with family and friends.

As the Executive Vice President of Northern Improvement Company, a contractor with over 400 employees who need to earn their wages when the sun shines, I respectfully ask that you vote NO on this bill. Thank you for taking the time to read my request and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Barnes

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Highway – Heavy – Municipal Contractor
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