

**Testimony of Dennis Nybo, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation,
Devils Lake Park District
To Senate State and Local Government Committee
In Opposition to HB 1259
March 24, 2025**

Chair Roers and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Devils Lake Park District and the following organizations, we are in strong opposition to HB 1259, which proposes to eliminate daylight savings time and move our state to permanent standard time. We are concerned about the harmful impact it will have on outdoor recreation and the overall health and well-being of North Dakotans.

As organizations that rely on outdoor recreation and activities in our state parks, we believe the loss of extended daylight hours will significantly reduce opportunities for participation in youth and adult sports leagues, recreational activities like hiking, biking, and fishing, and many other community programs. Shortened daylight hours will also make these activities less safe, particularly for those who engage in evening recreation.

Additionally, if the state shifts to standard time permanently, the reduction in daylight hours will increase the demand for artificial lighting. The increased need for lighting will come at a higher cost to park districts. The additional financial burdens could limit our ability to maintain and improve parks and recreation spaces and programs for the public.

Many of the sports, programs, leisure activities, and special events rely on the extra extended daylight hours such as baseball, softball, sand volleyball, golfing, theatre performances, arts in the park, etc. just to name a few.

We urge the committee to carefully consider the wide-ranging consequences this bill would have on community access to outdoor spaces and recreation. We respectfully request that you oppose HB 1259 to preserve the benefits of daylight savings time for our residents and visitors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Organizations Joining in Opposition:

1. Devils Lake Baseball Boosters
2. Devils Lake Creel Bay Golf Men's and Women's Golf Leagues
3. Devils Lake Legion Baseball
4. Lake Region Softball Association
5. Devils Lake Sand Volleyball
6. Frisbee Golf Enthusiasts
7. Arts in the Park
8. Fort Totten Little Theatre
9. Pickleball Enthusiasts