

I am very, very strongly opposed to HB 1259.

HB 1259 would severely limit outdoor recreation for the average working person. We may have enough daylight during most of June and early July without daylight savings time for evening outdoor activities but late April, all of May, and from mid July to October evening outdoor activities would be quite limited.

A person with a typical weekday job may get off work around 5 pm. By the time they get home from work and have a quick supper it would be too late to take part in much outdoor activity before dark.

They would not have time to shoot a round of golf, go fishing, play a tennis match, go for a long bike ride, enjoy the park with their family, etc.

If passed, for about four of the months between April and October this bill would limit many outdoor activities for the person with a typical work schedule to just the 2 weekend days per week instead of the current 7 days.

Many softball leagues have 2 games scheduled on a weekday evening. Many of these fields do not have lights. During May and mid July to September it may be quite difficult to get both games in before sundown. The same goes for tennis leagues and many other scheduled outdoor activities.

A family gathering for a picnic at the park would be affected. They may arrive at the park by around 6 pm but by the time they have put out the food and ate their meal there would not be much daylight left for the children to enjoy the park equipment.

Although oil is now a significant part of the ND economy, agriculture still remains high. Even with daylight savings time for 2+ months of the summer there is enough light for a farm worker to start work at about 6:30 am. Without daylight savings time I doubt many employees would want to wake up at about 4:30am so they can get to work an hour earlier at 5:30 am. It is much easier for a farmer to keep an employee working until around 9 pm during the busy times with daylight savings than it would be to get that same employee to arrive at work by 5:30 am.

A farm with high school children that help on the farm after school would probably have the daily time they could assist with harvesting cut from four hours to three hours without daylight savings.

Many children are already spending too much time inside watching tv, playing video games, etc. Without daylight savings time in the approximate 4 months when it would be getting dusk around 8 pm children who would normally be involved with outdoor activities until 9 pm would be forced to go inside an hour earlier.

One weak benefit I have heard from some who support HB 1259 is that without daylight savings we would no longer have the hassle of changing clocks twice a year. Many clocks now change the time on their own and this trend will continue. The average household might spend 5 minutes twice a year to manually change the clocks that do not set themselves. If we do not have daylight savings I feel the confusion many citizens will have when dealing with surrounding states or any of the 47 other states that would have daylight savings is a much greater concern than taking 5 minutes twice a year to change the clocks.

I feel that for every person who this bill would benefit there would be about ten who would be adversely affected.

For the benefit of the majority of the ND citizens you serve I strongly urge you to vote "NO" on this bill.

Thank You!
Darcy Hanson
Wildrose, ND