

Dear representatives,

I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 1259.

This would be a terrible idea for the state of North Dakota, with the reasons I will list as follows. First as a resident living in a border city with Minnesota March through October we would be in a different time zone as Minnesota for eight months of the year, causing a great inconvenience for residents and businesses on both sides of the border. It would affect those who work in North Dakotan businesses and those commuting to Minnesota for work daily. It would also affect businesses in North Dakota in a negative way who have employees who live in Minnesota, or who operate in both states. Businesses especially in the farming economy in the red river valley who rely on farming on both sides of the river would be affected, as well as the oil industry in the western portion of the state bordering Montana. When half of the state's population lives within twenty miles of Minnesota this does not make sense. This would also cause problems for other cities on the South Dakota and Montana border like Willison and Ellendale who rely on commerce in those states. It would also create a problem for the western part of the state in mountain time, essentially making three different time zones for eight months of the year. You would have mountain time in Montana, that would fall back an hour in the western part of our state, and then into central time, which would essentially put the western part of our state in pacific time for eight months of the year. I don't think it makes any sense for the western counties of the state to essentially be in the same time zone as Los Angeles for eight months of the year. It would also cause the western counties to have very early sunrises, The sun would rise in Dickenson at three forty five, and set at before eight on the longest day of the year. The same would be similar for Fargo, the sun would rise at four thirty and set before eight thirty. Most residents want the extra hour to come in the evening so that after work they can still spend time with family outside, or do outdoor activities like golf, fish, or maybe a quick pheasant hunt in October. This would also help kids be able to spend more time outside which is very important to the mental wellbeing of adolescents. Other neighboring states like Minnesota and Wisconsin already tried permanent standard time in the past and it was disastrous. I think everyone would agree that changing clocks twice a year is a headache, but it far outweighs the disadvantages that permanent standard time would bring. We should wait to see if the current federal legislation of the sunshine protection act is adopted before we make any changes.

Thank you for your consideration,  
William Meyer,  
Wahpeton ND