

Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee,

I would like to express my great opposition for HB 1259.

My name is Ashley Bruner, from Drake, District 6. As a citizen of North Dakota, I am greatly concerned for numerous reasons on why this bill should not pass.

When I saw this bill, making the change to always be Standard Time, to make sense of it I thought of it as "No Spring Ahead" and thought "would that really mean?"

No Spring Ahead would mean that on those savored nights in the middle of June and July when we enjoy being outside until 10pm because it's still light out, it won't be, because it'll actually be 9pm. Our limited ND summer nights will be cut short an hour, EVERY DAY, ALL SUMMER. That means...

Our softball league will only be able to get one game in, instead of 2 because we won't have enough daylight to play. Start the games earlier you might suggest? Just because the time change, our work schedules won't change, so we can't just start games earlier, people won't make it. This might not be a big deal to some, but I'd call this a mental health necessity for many across the state. That one night a week, for 10 weeks a year that many look forward to, to get outside and be active with friends – just one thing that makes these cold winters more bearable.

Our kids baseball and softball leagues (and other kids summertime activities) won't be able to get all their innings in because we'll run out of daylight. Not every facility has the option to just turn the lights on to keep playing. This will disrupt kids activities across the state as well.

The sun will rise BEFORE 5am the entire month of June. I realize there are some morning people out there who will love this, but do you want to be woke by your neighbor mowing the lawn at 5am?

Will work schedules adjust the work day to working 7-4 so we can have the same amount of outside daylight time? Or will we work the standard 8-5 and be shorted an hour of necessary vitamin D? Yes, we can choose to wake up earlier, but if our work day is the same on the clock, tell me how practical and beneficial it really is to wake up early, but still have the same work schedule. Are you going to wake at 5, mow your lawn, then go to work?

Many on the eastern side of the state will be even greater affected. How many people work/live in Fargo/Morehead, Grand Forks/East Grand Forks and will be affected, where most of the year your work/residence will be on different times? This seems a bit inconvenient. Inconvenient is one of the reasons some are for this bill, saying "it's inconvenient to have to change my clocks twice/year" is it really inconvenient, or are you just lazy? The inconvenience of changing your clock is greatly drowned in the reasons why this will negatively affect peoples work schedules.

I believe once upon a time, the time zone line was the Missouri River, to where Bismarck/Mandan were on separate time zones. It became so much of an inconvenience for many who commuted for work that they moved the time zone line further west so it was no longer an issue. Additionally, do I recall that there was another move of the time zone line further west in the Hazen/Beulah areas, because they were on separate time zones, but the plants ran on one time zone and so many people commuted between the two, they changed the time zone border so both communities and plants were all on Central Time? So now we're going to revert back to the same issue, only on the eastern border, the most populous area of the state, where ND and MN will be on different times for half the year?

How about this... picture a map of the state. ND stays on Standard Time. But we still have 2 time zones, Central and Mountain. Minnesota, Montana and South Dakota follow Daylight Saving Time. So, we stay, those states spring ahead. So to our east/southeast, Minnesota and South Dakota will be 12noon, Eastern/Central ND will be 11am, Western ND will be 10am, and Montana and Western SD will be 11am. Minnesota, Montana and South Dakota follow Daylight Saving Time. So, we stay, those states spring ahead. Dickinson will be 10am, but Morehead will be 12pm. The map of times would look quite ridiculous now wouldn't it? This too seems more of an inconvenience than changing my clock twice/year.

One testimony at the House Committee hearing was "other states do it, so we can too" or something like that. Correction: Hawaii is on Standard Time always, but they're literally on their own island(s). Arizona is the only other state that doesn't follow Daylight Saving time. And guess what, no one ever knows what time it is in AZ!

Another opposition didn't even seem to understand the bill as they were in favor of us staying Daylight Saving Time all the time. The opposition doesn't understand what this bill would truly do to our state!

We are limited to beautiful summer days, and to deal with the winters we do, we cherish every ounce of summer nights we can get. I'm no expert on health and all that, but I can only image there will be a negative impact on people's health if we lose this extra hour of summer nights.

The reason of "it's hard for my kids to adjust", or "I hate setting my clock" just aren't good enough in this debate. I'm a mom of 4 littles and no one in our house skipped a beat with the recent time change. But what we do know is the extra hour each night we're getting, and how wonderful it is to stay outside and play longer after school. That's right, our kids play outside, breath fresh air – they enjoy North Dakota for it's beauty. Don't cut that short for them!

I strongly oppose HB 1259 and encourage you to cast a DO NOT Pass vote from this committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Ashley Bruner

Drake, District 6