

March 26, 2025

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

Our names are Zachary and Krista Verlinde, we reside in rural Noonan, ND. We are testifying in opposition of HB 1259.

We believe there are several reasons to maintain Daylight Savings Time (DST) in North Dakota and want to highlight a few for you to consider as you determine if this is the best choice for our great state. A few of these reasons are summarized below for your review.

Farmers/Ranchers and Farm-Related Support Activities:

Nearly 24% of North Dakota workers are farmers and/or ranchers or are employed in farm-related support jobs. We both have grown up on working farms and Zach is a full-time farmer. We know the value DST has on our family farm and would estimate that many of the benefits we receive resonate with most farmers and ranchers and farm-related support workers throughout ND. Some benefits of DST to us include increased productivity – DST allows longer working hours in the evening typically resulting in more crop to be harvested during critical times. In addition – daylight hours later in the evening provide for time to complete other daily duties including chores, tending to our livestock herd, working on machinery, refueling for next morning activities, etc. An additional benefit of DST is reduced energy costs – longer working hours during daylight can be completed without the assistance of lit up areas including barns, sheds, fuel areas, along with fields where machinery or equipment is being moved, grain is being loaded, etc.

Undergraduate/Graduate Students, Professors & Related Support Activities:

North Dakota is fortunate to offer the ability for undergraduate and graduate students to take courses through the Metro College Alliance at any of these five institutions of higher education: North Dakota State University, Concordia College, Minnesota State University Moorhead, North Dakota State College of Science and Minnesota State Community and Technical College. Courses may be taken at one campus or any other campus at no extra expense to said student. This is a great opportunity for students in our state to take advantage of a variety of educational opportunities. We strongly feel that a change to DST would directly affect this agreement and disrupt the opportunity provided to all affected due to time differences within the ND and MN state line, causing difficulty during class scheduling and overlaps that could occur resulting in significant challenges for all involved.

Outdoor Physical Activities and Social Interactions:

North Dakota has endless opportunities for residents and non-residents both young and old to enjoy outdoor activities. A change to DST would result in reduced time to enjoy activities and sports which provide so many benefits beyond physical movement, including social connection time with family and friends, mental well-being, and disease prevention to name a few. Some great examples of these activities in ND include hiking, biking, fishing and hunting, boating and kayaking, camping, baseball, softball, golf, and swimming. ND is home to some unique spots including a National Park and several State Parks and Historic Sites that welcome residents and tourists alike.

In conclusion, we urge a “Do Not Pass” on HB 1259. We thank you for your time and consideration.



Zachary Verlinde  
zverlinde@yahoo.com



Krista Verlinde  
krista.verlinde@yahoo.com