

Madam Chair and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, my name is Arik Spencer with the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **opposition to House Bill 1259**.

Eliminating Daylight Savings Time (DST) has significant economic implications, especially for our border communities, construction companies, and tourism-related businesses. These include:

- Disruptions to Interstate Commerce – North Dakota doesn't operate in a bubble. Keeping standard time while most of the country observes DST would throw off scheduling for industries tied to national markets, from finance to transportation.
- Diminished Workforce Efficiency – North Dakota's economy depends on seasonal work. Cutting two hours of usable daylight each day during peak construction season is a significant setback to construction companies limited by local ordinances regulating the time construction can begin in the morning.
- Border Town Confusion – Cities like Grand Forks/East Grand Forks and Fargo/Moorhead function as single communities, with residents and businesses moving seamlessly across state lines. If North Dakota stays on standard time while Minnesota observes DST, these cities will be split between two time zones for half the year—creating logistical headaches for businesses, consumers, and hours of operations.
- Impact on Tourism and Retail – When the sun sets earlier, people head home sooner. Restaurants, entertainment venues, and retail businesses thrive on summer evenings, and an earlier sunset could mean lost revenue and a competitive disadvantage.

Maintaining Daylight Savings Time is crucial for the continued success of our state and for ensuring that businesses can operate at full potential. We urge you to consider the negative impact this bill would have on our economy and daily life, and give HB 1259 a do not pass recommendation.