

March 26, 2025

To: Senate State and Local Government Committee

From: Jesse Kist (Morton County resident)

Subject: Opposition to HB 1259

Chair Roers, committee members, & senators:

My name is Jesse Kist. I am a resident of Morton County and a lifelong resident of North Dakota. I urge a do not pass on HB 1259. Daylight savings time is currently observed 238 days annually, or 65% of each year. HB 1259 would replace 238 hours of usable evening daylight with early morning daylight that is of little use to most North Dakotans.

HB 1259 will result in:

- **238 fewer hours of warm season evening (after work) daylight hours annually.**
 - For those working until 5-6 pm, daylight savings time provides time to recreate, do outdoor chores, garden, hunt, fish, and enjoy fresh air after work. Under permanent standard time, the amount of daylight after work would become too minimal for many activities, particularly in the months of March, April, September, and October.

- **Unnecessary confusion and complications in our border cities, 65% of the year.**
 - This would unnecessarily impact scheduling, daycare coordination, after school functions, recreation leagues, and a multitude of other functions and activities in North Dakota's border cities.

- **Less time to recreate, impacting mental health and the recreation economy.**
 - The suggestion that people will be happier and healthier under permanent standard time is very frustrating for those of us who find health and happiness in our ability to recreate outdoors after work.

 - Having less daylight after work will impact recreation throughout North Dakota. Communities and park districts will suffer as sports leagues are negatively impacted, park use will decline as there becomes inadequate time after work to enjoy them in the spring and fall, operating costs will rise as artificial lighting becomes critical, and recreation-based economies will suffer (zoos, amusement parks, golf courses, boating, etc.).

Are we so sensitive to adjusting our clocks twice a year that we are willing to give up 238 hours of usable evening sunlight annually, create unnecessary confusion in our border cities, and compromise recreation throughout our state?

This is certainly a passionate topic, but after the long winters we endure, North Dakotans deserve (and the majority enjoy) the additional hour of evening sunlight provided by daylight savings time. After “springing forward” on March 9th, how many legislators have been disappointed to walk outside from a long day of work into daylight? How many have wished for it to be dark?

Until there is both consensus for change and a plan for consistency with our bordering states, please do not take away our evening sunlight. **I ask that you oppose HB 1259.**

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Kist', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jesse Kist

2753 Lyons Road

Mandan, North Dakota