

Aaron Thostenson
Regarding HB 1259
3/26/2025

In Opposition to HB 1259

My name is Aaron Thostenson. I was born and raised in North Dakota, and have lived in the Fargo/Moorhead metropolitan area for nearly 30 years. While I live in Moorhead, Minnesota currently, I continue to work in West Fargo as a public servant at an organization located only a few blocks away from the house that I grew up in. I am testifying to urge you to vote **DO NOT PASS** on HB 1259 because of how observing standard time year-round would negatively affect my daily life, and the lives of those living in the population center of North Dakota.

If this bill were to pass, it would be a hindrance to me daily. I commute from Minnesota to North Dakota for work, to visit family and friends, receive health care, attend social events, and shop. I live so close to North Dakota that it takes me five minutes or less to walk from my Minnesotan home into Fargo via the Veterans Memorial Bridge. **This means that if HB 1259 were to pass, for half of the year I would be living in two different time zones on a daily basis.** Here are some ways that this arrangement would negatively affect me:

- It would become harder for me to juggle scheduling work events and personal events
- It would become more confusing for me to plan around business hours to visit North Dakota in order to receive medical care and shop.
- It would make it more difficult for the organization I work for to plan events with Moorhead stakeholders
- It would become more confusing to plan visits with my friends and family in North Dakota

I believe these types of problems would affect all North Dakotans who live in areas that border Minnesota. For example, **Fargo is the most populous city in North Dakota, and its population combined with West Fargo is around 170,000.** I urge you to consider how this bill would encumber this huge amount of people. Please consider people who are:

- Families with children who have educational or extra-curricular activities in Minnesota
- College students who enjoy the benefits of the Tri-College University consortium of NDSU, Concordia College, and Minnesota State University Moorhead
- Minnesotans who travel to Fargo and West Fargo for shopping and amenities
- Fargo and West Fargo residents who work in Minnesota, or travel regionally to work
- Families where members live on both sides of the Red River

In summary, **this bill does not take into account the rich and multifaceted lives of citizens of North Dakota, and those who benefit from North Dakota's industry and culture.** For these reasons, I urge you to vote DO NOT PASS on HB 1259.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Aaron Thostenson