



**Testimony of Laura Lacher**  
**Economic Development Association of North Dakota**  
**In Opposition of HB 1259**  
**March 27, 2025**

Chair Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Laura Lacher, I serve as the executive director of the Economic Development Association of North Dakota (EDND). On behalf of our statewide membership, which includes local and regional economic development professionals, I am here today to express our opposition to HB 1259, as currently written, which would require North Dakota to observe standard time year-round.

While we understand the intent to simplify timekeeping and avoid the twice-yearly time change, implementing this change unilaterally without alignment from surrounding states poses significant concerns for commerce, workforce, and economic development.

Our association represents economic developers who work closely with employers, entrepreneurs, investors, and out-of-state partners. Many of these interactions and relationships extend across state lines, particularly with Minnesota, South Dakota and Montana. If North Dakota were to adopt permanent standard time without those surrounding states doing the same, we risk creating confusion, disruption with national and regional businesses, complicating transportation, logistics, scheduling, and even virtual operations.

However, should the bill be amended to make this change contingent upon surrounding states also adopting year-round standard time, EDND would remove its opposition. We believe a regional approach is essential to avoid unintended economic disruptions and ensure consistency for businesses and communities alike.

We urge lawmakers to proceed with caution and consider the broader regional implications before advancing this legislation in its current form. Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions.