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March 27, 2025

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

I am Brent Baldwin, a farmer from Saint Thomas, North Dakota and President of the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association. Our members are the sugarbeet grower-owners of American Crystal Sugar Company. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 1259.

American Crystal Sugar Company operates five sugarbeet factories in the Red River Valley in both North Dakota and Minnesota. The factories are in Moorhead, Hillsboro, Crookston, East Grand Forks and Drayton. American Crystal Sugar employs 1800 year-round employees as well as numerous seasonal laborers and various contractors/vendors. Many of these employees work in North Dakota and live in Minnesota, or vice versa.

This bill will still require many North Dakota residents to live and operate in two different time zones, even though the State will be operating under just one. This will be especially problematic for those that live or work in an adjacent state. Because American Crystal operates on both sides of the Red River, there will be many reasons why this bill will be troublesome for our Cooperative including: childcare for our employees, correct shift scheduling, vendor deliveries and sugar shipments. North Dakota is a leader in many things, but moving to Standard Daylight Time should not be one of them. North Dakota should wait until adjacent states also adopt similar legislation, so we do not create a patchwork of differing time zones.

This bill will be disastrous for our communities, commerce and the general well-being of North Dakotans. We encourage this committee to provide a DO NOT PASS recommendation on HB 1259.

Brent Baldwin – Farmer – Saint Thomas, North Dakota
President - Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association