

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 1259
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
MARCH 27, 2025**

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

My name is Tara Felice, and I represent Mandan Baseball Club. I strongly urge you to reject House Bill 1259 and preserve daylight saving time in North Dakota.

With one of the shortest warm seasons in the country, every hour of evening daylight is essential. When we finally get a few months of warmth, we should maximize that time—not only for personal enjoyment but also for the many community activities that bring people together. Our long winters already limit outdoor recreation, and taking away an extra hour of evening daylight would further restrict the time families, athletes, and community members have to be outside.

Many organizations, including Mandan Baseball Club, depend on extended daylight hours for practices and games. Reverting to standard time would mean earlier sunsets, cutting into already limited outdoor opportunities. This would force leagues to reduce participation, shorten practices, or rely on costly artificial lighting—an expense many communities cannot afford. For example, when school is out, our programs run until 9:00–9:30 p.m. In the spring, when school is in session, our programs run until dark—often around 8:00 p.m. Losing an hour in the evening would have a profound impact on our ability to provide kids with the opportunity to play baseball.

Additionally, Mandan Baseball Club hosts tournaments that attract teams from across the region, bringing visitors who spend money at local hotels, restaurants, and businesses. These events generate tax revenue that directly benefits our community, contributing thousands of dollars annually to local businesses and city services. Losing an hour of daylight would limit the number of games we can schedule each day, which could reduce participation.

The impact extends beyond sports. Countless outdoor activities that foster community engagement would suffer, making it harder for families to stay active and connected. After enduring long winters, North Dakotans want to take walks, visit parks, garden, and spend evenings outdoors.

For these reasons, I urge this committee to reject HB 1259. Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions.