

State of North Dakota Senate Transportation Committee
SB 2183

Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the North Dakota Safety Council (NDSC) to express my enthusiastic support of SB2183. As the Training Director of the NDSC, and a former State Trooper from Denver, Colorado, I firmly believe this legislation is vital to address the issue of construction zone safety in North Dakota to protect motorists and workers.

There are multiple studies that have listed increased construction zone fines are among the top three most effective ways to reduce injuries and fatalities in work zones. The other two are public education of when and where work zones are being conducted, and the proper application of work zone speed design following the federal requirements and recommendations of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

According to the MUTCD, drivers will only slow down in a construction zone if they “perceive a need to do so.” Studies have shown that a minimum of 59% of drivers do not follow speed limits when posted because they do not feel they have to do so. The question becomes how do we motivate a driver to obey the posted speed limit? One of the most effective ways is through higher speed fines.

As a former state trooper who worked in hundreds of construction zones in Colorado, we saw a marked drop in the number of motorists speeding in work zones when Colorado raised their speeding fines and then doubled those fines in construction zones. As an example, 10 mph over the speed limit in a Colorado construction zone is currently \$286.00. It is not about the fine amount; it is about the fine amount acting as a deterrent to a motorist to motivate them NOT to speed in the work zone.

I have investigated multiple fatal crashes in construction zones. Every fatal crash I investigated, speed was at least one of the factors involved. As our traffic continues to increase as our state grows in population, it will be come more important to protect motorists and workers in this increasing moving vehicle environment. I therefore humbly ask for your support of SB 2183 to increase the level of safety in all North Dakota road construction zones.

Thank you,

D.E. Moseman
Training Director, NDSC

We are dedicated to preventing injuries and saving lives.

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