

Chairman and senators of the transportation committee, thank you for serving the citizens of North Dakota.

My name is LeRoy Rude. I live in the Turtle Mountains near Bottineau North Dakota.

My story starts about two years ago when I was going to restore a vehicle I had in my pasture for the last 50 years. I got this and another vehicle from a neighbor when I was in my teens or early 20s. He passed away 10 years later or 40 years ago. Not sure if I got a title or not, with the vehicles but right now, there is no title to be found. I went into the Bottineau DMV and told them my situation. They were very nice, and with a smile presented me with what they call a packet, which contains 11 pages. Two of them were directions, and nine forms to fill out- plus I had to send two photos: one of the vehicle, and the other of the VIN plate. I mailed the forms with an explanation of why I couldn't produce a bill of sale (because the seller had passed away 40 years prior) and the check for the fees they required.

A few days later, I received the documents back with a letter indicating that additional information was required. Firstly, the application was not signed. Secondly, "the bill of sale must be signed by the seller and notarized."

I signed the form that I had forgotten to sign, but the notarized bill of sale is the problem. I explained to them again that the seller had passed away 40 years prior. I could very easily have had my son sign a bill of sale and have it notarized, end of problem. But I told the truth and sent the form in again. Another few days passed, and I received everything back again, with a letter stating that because I could not provide a notarized Bill of Sale, my process was not valid. The letter then goes on to say, "a court order would be required to have a judge award you the vehicle".

So, I went to the Clerk of Courts office in Bottineau to see what the process would be. They had never heard of this before. OK. I called the DMV in Bismarck and asked them what the process was. She told me they would send me the information. A few days later, I received a large envelope in the mail with 22 pages of forms and instructions. I just shook my head. Later, I was visiting with a couple guys that had went through the process to get a court order, and they told me it would cost me between \$1,500-\$3,500 to get an order and that didn't guarantee I would get one.

This is when I said there needs to be some changes. So, I started the process and now with the help of many with similar problems, we have SB 2247, which you have in front of you.

Some additional thoughts:

#1. Statement of ownership. Should be simple and to the point. I am swearing that I own this vehicle and that all the information is true and I have signed in front of a notary public. Then the DMV should do their background check (liens or reports of theft) and if no issues are found, the DMV will issue a new title to the applicant.

#2. SB 2247 Page 3. Lines 2 and 3. The last sentence should be removed. Appraisals for vehicles forty years or older are inconsistent, depending on who gives the appraisal. Rural areas are almost impossible to find someone certified that will be willing to do an appraisal.

I would like to see these two things changed in the bill.

#3. The small-town DMV offices need to be given more responsibility and be trusted to make more decisions on titling and licensing. To me, the local offices are better qualified to serve the people of their community.

Please vote "yes" on SB 2247.

Thank you for listening,

LeRoy Rude

For any questions, feel free to contact me.

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