



January 28, 2021

**House Transportation Committee
House Bill 1257**

Chairman Ruby members of the House Transportation Committee my name is Matt Gardner and I am here representing the North Dakota Motor Carriers Association (NDMCA). NDMCA opposes HB 1257.

The trucking industry is critical in transporting freight nationally and internationally. North Dakota trucking companies transport over 37,000 tons of freight per day.

NDMCA mission statement is *"To Promote Highway Safety, Deliver Services and Provide Representation for Our Members"*.

Currently, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations require commercial motor vehicle drivers to wear safety belts. It is estimated that there is 86% compliance for drivers wearing their safety belts. This expanded to their passengers in 2016. Although this bill would not directly affect the trucking industry, safety of all users on our roads is a top priority for NDMCA.

NDMCA's Board of Directors approved policy statements include support of a primary safety belt law. This law would go in the wrong direction of safety on our roadways. NDMCA asks for a do not pass recommendation from the House Transportation Committee.