



Testimony to the
House Transportation Committee
Prepared January 27, 2021
by Ryan Gellner, North Dakota Association of Counties

Regarding: HB 1279

My Name is Ryan Gellner, representing the North Dakota Association of Counties.

The North Dakota Association of Counties Support HB 1279.

In North Dakota there are over eleven-thousand miles of county roads that counties are ultimately responsible for. Counties throughout North Dakota have taken the Vision Zero initiative seriously and are supportive of laws that advance Vision Zero, and ultimately reduce serious injury crashes and save lives.

Personally, I serve as the committee chair of the Vision Zero Priority Emphasis Team in the areas of speed related crashes, occupant protection, and aggressive driving. The committee I represent knows that laws are in place to act as a deterrent, and their existence results in most motorists choosing to obey the law. Penalties for violating laws enhance that deterrence.

Our committee believes that speeding penalties should be equal no matter what roadway a driver is on. A standardized system provides equal penalties regardless of the speed limit for the roadway. Data shows us that speeding is a major factor in crashes, regardless of the speed zone. It is equally important motorists follow the speed limit in all zones, speeding in a 25-mph zone is just as dangerous as speeding in a 75-mph zone.

Please issue a due-pass on HB-1279.

Thank you, Chairman Ruby, and all the Transportation Committee members. Your work in advancing North Dakota's transportation efforts is greatly appreciated.