

Thursday, March 2, 2023

Senate Transportation Committee North Dakota State Capitol Building, Fort Totten RE: HB 1316 – Pedal Pub / Autocycles

Chairman Clemens and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

Thank you for accepting my testimony today on behalf of Fargo Pedal Tours, LLC. We respectfully request your favorable consideration of HB1316. This legislation establishes a clear legal framework for the operation of commercial multi-passenger bicycles in North Dakota.

Fargo Pedal Tours is actively working to establish a tour service offering open-air tours of vibrant Downtown Fargo while passengers pedal the tour forward. As part of our experience, we hope to highlight the rich heritage of our community, the pioneers who built our city, and the storied history of the architecture which defines Fargo's skyline.

Pedal trolley businesses have become increasingly popular, with operations in over 100 cities nationwide, including Minneapolis and Sioux Falls. Passage of HB1316 will bring this fun, unique activity to our state while contributing to the economy by boosting tourism entertainment opportunities and generating additional revenue to our food service and hospitality industries.

HB1316 creates a clear legal framework, like those in other states, which empower cities to regulate these operations as they see fit. With regard to the consumption of alcohol, this legislation would simply extend to multi-passenger bicycles the existing exemptions for party buses, limousines, or other commercial vehicles for hire.

Further, we believe this legislation establishes appropriate safety measures and features which are an important guardrail for the safety of passengers.

As we prepare to launch our business, we are grateful for your consideration of our testimony and hope you'll give HB1316 a favorable 'do pass' recommendation. We look forward to offering a fun and unique experience for Fargo residents and visitors!

Thank you,

Thomas Stromme *Co-Founder* Fargo Pedal Tours, LLC