

Chairman Ruby and members of the transportation committee

My name is LeRoy Rude from Bottineau North Dakota. I am in support of SB 2247.

To start with car shows, collectors and automobile enthusiasts are a big part of North Dakota economy.

In the last few years administrative rules have made it nearly impossible, and sometimes impossible to restore or title a vehicle 40 years or older. I gave up on the process when the DOT told me (after filling out a dozen or so forms) because I couldn't produce a notarized bill of sale for a vehicle I own for 50 years or wasn't able to send two registered letters to the person I bought it from. He passed about 40 years ago. Now I'm told I needed to have a judge award me the vehicle. I was told by others that had went through that process that it was going to cost me \$1500-\$3500 for attorney fees. That's when I called Senator Thomas representative at that time. and that's when the process started and we ended up with 2247.

Brad Schaeffer testified they were concerned about stolen vehicle vehicles. Would you ask him a question if he is available? The question I would like to know is. "through the DOT's process how many stolen vehicles has been recovered in the last five years." This would be interesting to know.

One thing I would ask of you is to direct the director of the DOT to give more responsibility to the local branch offices. My opinion is they are being paid to do the job but are not authorized to do the job. I took two titles in to get transferred into my name. Both were signed by the same seller on the same day 30 plus years ago. Shame on me for not taking care of this years ago. I thought titles in hand, easy transfer. But no, they are required to get a hold of Bismarck DOT for a vin search. Didn't they purge their old records? Anyway, I was told I had to come back later because the person in Bismarck was not in at the time. When I went back, they transferred the title for the 1946 the title for the 1951 had a low vin number. To me a low serial number. (four numbers.) means one of the early cars built and more valuable. So I was told I needed photos of the car and vin plate. I did what they asked. In the photos, the rivet damage the last number of the vin. Now they want me to hire an inspector to verify Vin number. Sounds like they plan on changing the numbers on new title. This may hurt the value of my car.

Our local branch office would have worked through this. They know the people of the community and how important they are to the community. Not too long ago drivers license test were given once a month in Bottineau. Now that is no longer done and we have to drive 100 miles to the nearest testing office. More efficient?

A sidenote on efficiency. I put a letter in my mailbox to pay a bill in Bottineau 20 miles away. It is taken to the post office in Bottineau then it is loaded on a box truck and taken 200 miles to Grand Forks dropped off and sorted then it is loaded on the same box truck and hauled 200 miles back to the same post office where it is sorted onto postal vehicles and delivered to its destination. And there are no more or no less employees working at the bottom post office as there were when the sorting was done locally.

Sorry for rambling.

2247 is a very important bill for many people in North Dakota.

Please support SB 2247

thank you, Respectfully, LeRoy Rude