

2025 SENATE TRANSPORTATION

SB 2068

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

SB 2068
1/9/2025

Relating to rail service assistance.

9:45 a.m. Chairman Clemens opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Clemens, Vice Chairwoman Cory, Senator Hogan, Senator Klein, Senator Paulson, Senator Rummel.

Discussion Topics:

- PSC and DOT cooperation

9:45 a.m. Konrad Crockford, Compliance Division Director of the Public Service Commission, testified in favor and submitted testimony #28231.

9:51 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

9:52 a.m. Senator Klein moved a Do Pass.

9:52 a.m. Senator Cory seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Claire Cory	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Jerry Klein	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Dean Rummel	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Senator Klein will carry the bill.

9:54 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

Chance Anderson, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2068 ([25.8063.01000](#))

Transportation Committee (Sen. Clemens, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING), and be placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

Senate Bill 2068

Presented by: Konrad Crockford, Director, Compliance Division
Public Service Commission

Before: Senate Transportation Committee
The Honorable Senator Clemens, Chair

Date: January 09, 2025

TESTIMONY

Chair Clemens and committee members, I am Konrad Crockford, the Compliance Division Director for the Public Service Commission, here to testify on SB 2068.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) is the state agency charged with representing North Dakota's rail interests before federal agencies and in direct negotiations with rail carriers related to tariffs and rates, and investigation and enforcement of rail safety. The PSC, by nature, is a regulatory agency focused on ensuring compliance with laws and rules. The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) maintains focus on the long-range planning of rail transportation and improvements to intersections where the public and railroads meet. Additionally, the NDDOT administers the two state rail loan programs along with spearheading grant applications for improving and upgrading railroad grade crossings across North Dakota. In 2023, the NDDOT was able to secure a \$30M Federal Railroad Administration grant to assist with the grade separation at the intersections of Demers Ave. and 42nd St. in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

The affected North Dakota Century Code sections in SB 2068 currently require the NDDOT to seek approval from the PSC to apply for rail grants. The PSC proposes to amend these sections to remove the approval requirement, while still maintaining the PSC's participation. The NDDOT is well positioned to understand the needs of the state when it comes to railroad grade crossings and rail transportation enhancements and which available federal grants these needs may fit into. As a result, although the PSC may have input at times, the PSC is better suited for an advisory role and will continue to actively participate in the NDDOT's Freight Advisory Committee, the North Dakota Long Range Transportation Plan, monthly railroad planning meetings, along with other cooperative initiatives.

Chair Clemens, this concludes my testimony. Thank you for your time and I will be happy to answer any questions.

2025 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

SB 2068

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

SB 2068
3/6/2025

Relating to rail service assistance.

10:00 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman D. Ruby, Vice Chairman Grueneich, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Finley-DeVile, Frelich, Johnston, Hendrix, Kasper, Koppelman, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz

Members Absent: Representatives Hendrix, Kasper

Discussion Topics:

- Rail transportation needs
- Railway upgrade funding
- Commission meetings

10:01 a.m. Konrad Crockford, Director, Compliance Division, Public Service Commission, testified in favor and submitted testimony #39029.

10:09 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the hearing.

10:09 a.m. Representative Christianson moved a Do Pass.

10:09 a.m. Representative Frelich seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Dan Ruby	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	Y
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Ty Dressler	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVile	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	AB
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	AB
Representative Ben Koppelman	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y

10:10 a.m. Motion passed 12-0-2.

10:10 a.m. Representative Frelich will carry the bill.

House Transportation Committee

SB 2068

3/6/2025

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10:10 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the meeting.

Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2068 ([25.8063.01000](#))

Transportation Committee (Rep. D. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2068 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

Senate Bill 2068

Presented by: Konrad Crockford, Director, Compliance Division
Public Service Commission

Before: House Transportation Committee
The Honorable Representative Dan Ruby, Chair

Date: March 06, 2025

TESTIMONY

Chair Ruby and committee members, I am Konrad Crockford, the Compliance Division Director for the Public Service Commission, here to testify on SB 2068.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) is the state agency charged with representing North Dakota's rail interests before federal agencies and in direct negotiations with rail carriers related to tariffs and rates, and investigation and enforcement of rail safety. The PSC, by nature, is a regulatory agency focused on ensuring compliance with laws and rules. The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) maintains focus on the long-range planning of rail transportation needs along with safety improvements to intersections where the public and railroads meet. Additionally, the NDDOT administers the two state rail loan programs along with spearheading grant applications for improving and upgrading railroad grade crossings across North Dakota. In 2023, the NDDOT was able to secure a \$30M Federal Railroad Administration grant to assist with the grade separation at the intersections of Demers Ave. and 42nd St. in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

The affected North Dakota Century Code sections in SB 2068 currently require the NDDOT to seek approval from the PSC to apply for rail grants. The PSC proposes to amend these sections to remove the approval requirement, while still maintaining the PSC's participation. The NDDOT is well positioned to understand the needs of the state when it comes to railroad grade crossings and rail transportation enhancements and which available federal grants these needs may fit into. As a result, although the PSC may have input at times, the PSC is better suited for an advisory role and will continue to actively participate in the NDDOT's Freight Advisory Committee, the North Dakota Long Range Transportation Plan, monthly railroad planning meetings, along with other cooperative initiatives.

Chair Ruby, this concludes my testimony. Thank you for your time and I will be happy to answer any questions.