



## NORTH DAKOTA COMMON GROUND ALLIANCE

Kevin Archer (Whiting Petroleum), Chair • Matt Nieme (SM Fencing), Vice Chair  
Dina Edwards (Northwest Communications Cooperative), Treasurer • Danette Welsh (ONEOK), Secretary

Testimony Provided To:

**Interim Economic Impact Committee**

By Danette Welsh

North Dakota Common Ground Alliance

September 17, 2015

**Regarding: Study of the North Dakota One Call System**

Chairman Triplett and Economic Impact Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share information about the national Common Ground Alliance (CGA), as well as the North Dakota chapter of the CGA. Established in 2000, the national CGA is comprised of over 1600 volunteer members who work to identify and promote best practices aimed at keeping communities and the environment safe from the undesired consequences of damage to buried utilities.

Established in 2012, the North Dakota chapter of the Common Ground Alliance (NDCGA) has over 140 members representing approximately 50 companies, organizations and individual stakeholders. In its short existence, it has developed a committed and active voluntary membership dedicated to raising public awareness of 811 and identifying and sharing stakeholder best practices. NDCGA membership meets quarterly at locations across the state and participates in the national CGA's annual conference. NDCGA recently co-hosted 811 Day at the 2015 North Dakota State Fair, and is currently planning a damage prevention summit for April 2016, which will include a locate rodeo, excavator rodeo, and stakeholder education sessions.

As part of each quarterly meeting, stakeholders attending in person and by phone discuss their observations on One Call from the field, with the goal of raising awareness of issues or trends. To be clear, NDCGA has not engaged in any policy development discussions and therefore is not offering any suggested changes to North Dakota's One Call laws. However, below are examples of issues discussed by NDCGA which are also identified in the national CGA best practices handbook (citations):

- Survey/planning and design tickets (2-2);
- Expanded geographic location ticket information (3-16, 6-17);
- Field personnel contact information (4-14, 5-15);
- Positive response (4-9, 5-8);
- White lining (5-2);
- Length of ticket life or locate respot/ticket refresh (5-17, 5-23); and
- Expanded education, especially for out of state contractors unfamiliar with ND laws (2-7, 7-1).

The North Dakota Common Ground Alliance and its member stakeholders appreciate the opportunity to share information about the organization, and we encourage you to use the national CGA Best Practices handbook, as well as the NDCGA membership as resources during the interim study of the North Dakota One Call system.

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"Damage Prevention Is a Shared Responsibility."

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