

## **Testimony from Vince Wuebker**

### **House Bill 1290**

### **House Transportation Committee**

**Thursday – January 21, 2021**

#### **39 - 10 - 11.1. Overtaking and passing a bicycle.**

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, my name is Vince Wuebker. I am a cyclist from Fargo. In 2020 I rode over 11,000 miles on by cycle. In the past 3 years I have ridden more than 23,000 miles with most of those miles coming on North Dakota roads. I can say riding bicycle along side and among the automobile traffic that I have almost seen it all. Almost, and I would like to keep it that way. I have not witnessed a bicycle-automobile accident. Close calls yes, collisions no. In my opinion the two big issues we cyclists face with the drivers as it pertains to this bill is the lack of education and acknowledgment that we cyclists have the same rights of the roadway as they do. Many drivers don't believe we belong on the road and this is reflected in the automobile getting aggressively and intentionally close as they pass going the same direction. You will also get a few drivers that will tell you to 'get off the road'. The other issue that I see, affects us all is the texting and driving. You notice more when riding a bike, and I can't believe the number of drivers that continue to text and drive.

As I was looking for words for testimony for House Bill 1290 it was difficult in that it sounded like way too much common sense, like what am I supposed to say, "well yes, just do it". But if the bill passes and it becomes part of the driver's training, then it is a step in the right direction to make more people aware of cyclists on the roadways of North Dakota and maybe one more voice to make people aware of the dangers of texting and driving. And that would be good for everyone.

I have been a cyclist since 1989 and I have ridden in many parts of the country and in foreign countries as well. It goes without saying that some areas of the country have more bike awareness than do others. I can, in fact, tell you that I would feel safer riding a bike in LA than parts of certain areas of Fargo. The cycling community is growing every year in North Dakota and it will continue to do so. House bill 1290 would embrace this growth and it is the right thing to do. I urge a DO PASS vote on House Bill 1290.

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