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Good afternoon Chairman Clemens and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, my name is Nathan Severson, and I am a trial attorney in Fargo, residing in West Fargo. A portion of my trial practice involves representing families who have suffered a death or catastrophic injuries in their family in crashes involving commercial motor vehicles. I hope to see the day when I no longer have to sit in a family's living room who have just lost their children or loved one due to a truck crash. This is why I am here to testify in opposition to SB 2026 as it is currently written and hope this committee recommends a do not pass for this bill.

One of the biggest issues in North Dakota with semi trucks and trailers is the inability to stop in adverse weather and road conditions. When commercial motor vehicles that weigh 80,000 pounds can't stop due to adverse conditions and collide with another 4 wheel vehicle on the roads, the result is most often catastrophic. Passage of SB 2026 would pave the way for "road trains" that could weigh as much as 360,000 pounds. There is no doubt that operation of these road trains in a North Dakota winter will kill North Dakota citizens, working directly against the Vision Zero (Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.) that North Dakota champions. See <https://visionzero.nd.gov/>.

Additionally, when the occupants of a 4 wheel vehicle don't get killed by these road trains, their injuries will be catastrophic. For the citizens of North Dakota who are catastrophically injured, the State will likely be the one picking up the tab for medical bills and other support through government assistance programs, as there is not enough insurance to cover the loss.

If the committee has any questions about the regulations that apply and how they will not be effective for these road trains, please feel free to ask me during my oral testimony or reach out to

me via email or phone. I want to do all I can to help you make the best informed decision for your constituents and North Dakotans.

Sincerely,

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