

GM Testimony North Dakota's Seat Belt Law

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. Good morning, my name is Don Larson, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of General Motors. I would like to offer this testimony in opposition to HB 1257, relating to seat belt usage.

General Motors has a strong commitment to safety that reaches all parts of the company, impacting everything from the development of our vehicles to the work behaviors of our employees. Ultimately, the safety of our customers and employees takes precedence over everything else.

GM's CEO, Mary Barra, has outlined the company's vision of a world with zero crashes, zero emissions and zero congestion. We are working on the technologies that will create this future, blending global insights with local market expertise as the automotive industry transforms from traditional manufacturing to transportation services. Safety, however, remains at the core of this vision.

It is for this reason that we oppose efforts remove requirements for use of seat belts. The seat belt is the primary safety device in a motor vehicle. It protects both the driver and passengers in the event of a collision. While we continue to develop advanced driver assist technologies to keep our customers safe, the seat belt remains the most effective tool in preventing injuries and saving lives in the event of an accident.

Overall, we believe there is too much at stake to not recognize the importance of using the primary safety device installed in each vehicle.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for your time and consideration.