

Oppose HB 1462

House Political Subdivisions Committee

February 2, 2023

Chairman Longmuir and Committee members,

I am Larry Syverson from Mayville, I grow soybeans on my farm in Traill County, I am the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Roseville Township, and I am also the Executive Secretary of the North Dakota Township Officers Association. NDTOA represents nearly 6,000 Township Officers that serve in more than 1,100 dues paying member townships.

The North Dakota Township Officers Association has concerns about HB 1462. This bill would require that all local boards serve notice of a decision on every affected party. This would put a significant cost and burden on township boards. The bill fails to define both “notice” and “affected party.” Due to the lack of definition, it would be necessary to serve personal notice under Rule 4 of the North Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure to as broad an audience as possible to ensure compliance with this vague requirement. North Dakota townships lack the staff and funding to “serve” all affected parties by any decision.

A decision to close a road in the middle of the night because of a washed out culvert will “affect” people. Does the township board need to wait 30 days after all “affected parties” are searched out and served notice before taking action?

The North Dakota Township Officers Association requests that you give HB 1462 a do not pass recommendation.

Thank you, Chairman Longmuir and Committee members, I will try to answer any questions you may have.