

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to oppose HB1444.

This bill appears to target a single road near Applied Digital in Ellendale, yet its consequences would extend statewide. Why are we passing legislation aimed at one location that will ultimately affect every community in North Dakota? HB1444 represents a troubling shift of power away from local communities and private landowners. This undermines both local governance and property rights. Township boards, which are more connected and accountable to their residents, must retain the authority to make these decisions collaboratively with their communities—not be overridden by distant authorities or corporate interests.

HB1444 opens the door to forced land acquisition and centralized control that contradicts the values of rural North Dakota: local decision-making, respect for property, and grassroots governance.

Please stand with landowners, local officials, and the principles of local control.

Vote **NO** on HB1444.

Respectfully,

Johanna Mongeon

Rolette, ND