

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Lamoure County Commissioner and a Wano Township Supervisor; I serve on both boards which this bill would affect. As a Township, we hire the County Road Department to maintain our roads and replace culverts when needed. I believe this bill will cause controversy and tension between both boards and hinder our ability to work together peacefully and respectfully. If the county has the power to take away township roads and does so, this will lessen the time the county has to maintain township roads because county roads have more maintenance and are top priority. As a county, we do not have the time, manpower, equipment, or funding to take on more miles of county roads. If this bill is passed will the counties get more funding to maintain these acquired roads or will we have to keep struggling as we currently are? There have been many bills that want more from local government which costs us more money and time but never seem to get anymore funding or compensation from the state. More miles of county roads that means more miles that our county law enforcement must patrol which is more workload for our already limited county workforce. This bill is designed for one project and that is Applied Digital in Ellendale Township, Dickey County. Notice their representative that wrote an "in favor" testimony on this bill. All of these "take over bills" such as 2208, 1258, and 1444 have the same sponsors and are directed to take away local government control. These bills are directed to benefit outside corporations and will not benefit our local communities. Our local District Legislators should be representing the people that voted them into office, not going against us and representing corporate companies for their personal and financial gain. I strongly urge you to oppose HB1444. Thank you for your time.