



Oakes Public School

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January 12, 2023

Dear Committee Members:

We are reaching out to you today to ask your help in addressing a situation that is of grave concern to our school community. We recently became aware of a decision that we believe could have possible negative repercussions on the safety and well-being of our students. We hope that in your unique role, you will be able to offer us help in correcting this decision.

Oakes Public School is a school of approximately 500 students. Our school is located on the corner of Main Avenue and State Hwy 1. Currently, there is a stoplight located at this intersection with a 4-way crosswalk and pedestrian crossing buttons. This setup is essential for the safety of our children, as Hwy 1 is a state highway with truck traffic that is heavy during certain times and days of the year. Our children rely on the signal to safely cross this busy road.

We were recently made aware that the ND DOT has decided to remove the stoplight. They completed a study of the intersection this summer and found that the ratio of pedestrian to car crossings was lower than their required threshold. We are vehemently opposed to the removal of this light based on data as the data does not tell the whole story...the story that includes the safety of our children that attend a school located RIGHT on a busy intersection.

Oakes Public School, Oakes police department, and the Oakes City Council are opposed to this decision. We are hoping to gather help from those that we know care about the safety and well-being of our children. Thus, that is the reason this letter is being sent to you. Our hope is that you will give your approval to HB 1246 and ensure that this stoplight remains by our school for the duration.

Sincerely,

Anna Sell, Oakes Superintendent