

January 16, 2023

Dear Chairman Ruby and members of the committee.

My name is Drew Courtney, and I am a substitute bus driver, farmer, dad, and active community member. I write this letter in support of HB1246.

As a substitute bus driver I am well aware of the great need for the stoplight to stay in its current location. When dropping students off in the morning and picking them up in the afternoon, there are large amounts of traffic going to work and generally accessing the business district, as well as additional parents dropping and picking up their students.

As a dad of 2 elementary students I understand how critically important it is for not only the safety of my children but all kids in school. Children use the pedestrian crossing buttons to access their parents place of work as the highway intersects the main business hub of Oakes. Students of all ages use the same crossing all summer to access a variety of amenities. Without the pedestrian crossing, I fear parents will limit their children's activities because of no longer being able to safely cross an extremely busy highway.

As a farmer I know of the large amount of semi traffic that travels through Oakes. Oakes is an agricultural powerhouse with onion warehouses, potato warehouses, a large fertilizer facility, and two 110 train loading elevators. After calling these facilities myself to get a rough estimate of trucks on a yearly basis, the number of semis traveling through town was approximately 48,000. I urge you to support HB1246 and support the safety and well being of our community!

Thank you Chairman Ruby and members of the committee.

Drew Courtney