

Dear Representative Grueneich:

I am a North Dakota resident living in Oakes. I'm the United Methodist pastor and I also work as a bus driver for the Oakes Public Schools.

I am writing in support of the bill coming before the Transportation Committee this Thursday (January 19th, 2023) regarding the maintenance of stop lights within short distances of schools.

My afternoon bus route goes north from Oakes through the intersection of Main Street and Highway One which has a stoplight for traffic control. I cannot count the number of times my bus is forced to stop at this intersection because one of our students is utilizing the traffic control device. I am often amazed, due to my position on the bus being so far above the street, how small many of our children look crossing the street. I can only imagine the difficulty of seeing elementary-age children if I was to drive a semi truck.

Another note to be made in support of this bill regarding the stop light in Oakes is that the main playground during the Summer for outdoor basketball is at our Oakes Elementary School. The nearest businesses in town offering refreshments like snacks, soda and ice cream following a game are across the noted intersection. I can't imagine a whole group of young people running across the street after play without the presence of traffic control like this stoplight.

Thank you for your work in support of this bill. If I can be of any further help, please contact me.

Sincerely

Rev Robert Moorlach