

I am writing about HB1246 regarding the removal of the Oakes City stoplight. This bill's outcome will directly impact my children, my students, and my community. The traffic light is located next to the public school and is the number one reason that removing it could put the students and other citizens in our community at risk. Every day large amounts of traffic travel through Oakes utilizing this stoplight that acts as the hub of our town dividing Main Street and Highway 1. As Oakes is primarily an agricultural community, much of that traffic includes tractor-trailers hauling grain, cattle, and other commodities. In addition to vehicle traffic, there is also foot traffic utilizing the stoplight, especially during lunchtime when many students head uptown for lunch. Another aspect to consider is the elementary playground being a few 100 feet from this traffic light.

As a parent of students in this school district and a teacher in this district, I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping this traffic light to keep our community safe. Every day I witness the amount of traffic moving through this area along with the students that walk to and from school. I am fortunate to see the current traffic light doing its intended job- keeping citizens safe. The traffic light in place causes drivers to use more caution and slower speeds. However, if the traffic light is taken down this could change. I urge you to help move this bill forward to help protect the students and community of Oakes.

Sincerely,
Kayla Meierotto