



City of Oakes
Police Department

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January 17th, 2023

Dear Committee members,

The state has a program called Vision Zero which our school recently partnered with. This partnership was started because our students are making a commitment to keep our community safe. It is obvious from the submitted testimony in support of HB1246 that our community as a whole is committed to this goal. The one thing this process has done has brought our community together to show unity on an issue. We all agree on the safety for our kids.

I strongly oppose removing the traffic light on Main Ave and Highway 1. Parents tell their children to use that intersection because it informs them when to cross and not cross. We see time and time again when kids are standing at a school or pedestrian crossing, and traffic stops for them, they are still hesitant to cross. We don't see this issue at our traffic light.

Not every small community has a major highway that goes directly by a school. We must do everything we can to slow traffic in that area and help our children feel safe when they cross that busy intersection. It can already be scary experience for younger children to cross a road. We need to continue to find ways to make them feel safe, not take them away. I know as a parent that it gives me a sense of security when my child is crossing that intersection.

I am not just asking you as the Chief of Police of this department, but I am asking you as a father to hear our concerns and stand with us on this issue. As leaders we need to listen to the people that we serve and that's why I am asking you to support HB1246.

Respectfully,

Chief Matthew O'Brien