

1/15/2025

To: North Dakota Legislature-69th Legislative Session

From: Travis Bateman

Re: IN FAVOR to HB 1173

Chairman Ruby and members of the House Transportation Committee,

Greetings,

I send this written testimony to you in favor to HB 1173.

The designation of the bridge on North Dakota Highway 31 that spans Sweet Briar Creek north of New Salem is a fitting honor to our fallen US Army soldier, Specialist Dennis James Federer, Jr.

My family is from New Salem, and I grew up there and can attest that New Salem is one of those small US towns that absolutely love, care about, and cherish their military veterans.

I did not have the honor or privilege of personally knowing DJ Federer but being a fellow combat veteran myself and having served in Iraq and making it home from two tours and having lost fellow service members, "I knew him". All of us that serve and don the uniform do. There is not enough that we can ever do to honor and remember those that have given their lives in service to our fellow man.

In designating this bridge in honor and memory of SPC DJ Federer and his sacrifice, you are helping in keep his memory alive for us all. Every person that travels that highway and reads that sign with his name will be helping to have a part in the motto "A hero remembered, never dies."

This is one more small, but meaningful designation and it is deeply appreciated by the veteran community that you would bestow this upon our fallen veterans.

Please give HB 1173 a DO PASS.

Thank you,

Travis Bateman
Watford City, ND