

HEARTHSIDE

VINEYARD AND WINERY

Dear Chairman Ruby and Members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Haley Moen and I am the owner of Hearthsides Vineyard and Winery. I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1182, which seeks funding for the improvement of 86th Street Southeast over Bear Creek. My property, and therefore my business, is only accessible by this road. This project addresses an essential infrastructure need that is critical for my vineyard and winery to operate effectively and contribute to the economic growth of the region.

I rely on this stream crossing for all public access to my property. When flooding renders the crossing unstable or impassable, it blocks access to my property and creates significant risks for both myself and those trying to visit the location for up to five months.

Hearthsides Vineyard and Winery is a venture rooted in the values of rural North Dakota, combining specialty agriculture with tourism. As a fifth-generation farmer from North Dakota, this business is what allows me to stay in my home state while introducing a value-added approach to agriculture that highlights hard work, a desire to learn, and the ability to share that with those around me. Hearthsides' impact will extend beyond its operations, as the development of the land will allow us to welcome additional businesses to the property while supporting local restaurants, shops, and attractions to build a thriving regional tourism hub. By ensuring the necessary infrastructure is in place now, we can pave the way for future entrepreneurs, sparing them from the challenges I've faced. However, none of this can move forward if the condition of the road is not addressed.

House Bill 1182 is an opportunity to uplift rural businesses and communities by addressing a very real and immediate challenge. This isn't just about fixing a road; it's about ensuring safety, supporting long-term growth, and strengthening the future of rural enterprise.

I urge you to recommend a "do pass" to House Bill 1182, ensuring that businesses like mine, and the communities we serve, can thrive. Thank you for your consideration and I will stand for any questions.

Sincerely,
Haley Moen
Owner, Hearthsides LLC