

Good morning, chairman Ruby, and members of transportation committee.

For the record. I am Lana Sleeper. My late husband was Bryan Sleeper, deputy of Burleigh County, end of watch September 28, 2011. I am in support of Senate Bill 2277.

Our peace officers are on the front lines to protect the community. They are modern day heroes.

Each day, millions of police officers do the selfish work of putting their lives on the line to protect civilians, frequently responding to or prevent preventing crisis with no recognition .

As of to date, North Dakota has lost 69 peace officers in the line of duty. Police officers put on the badge before every shift, not knowing for sure if they'll come home at the end of the shift to take it off.

The thin blue line represents the men and women of law-enforcement. Who stand in the gap between the laws and innocent. North Dakota Highway 200, proposed North Dakota fallen peace officers Memorial Highway. This highway mostly runs straight through the state west to east. This highway would be the symbol of the thin blue line through the state.

North Dakota Highway 200 is where, deputy Paul Martin, Mercer County sheriffs Department , was killed on December 6, 2023. He made the ultimate sacrifice.

This proposed highway would be cherished by all the survivors of the fallen officers. This proposed highway has a special place in Paul Martin's family's hearts.

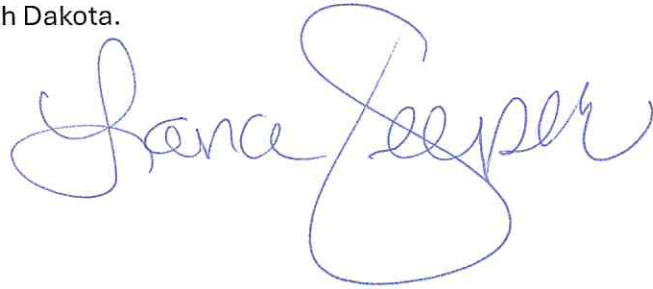
The memorial sign would be forever, honoring peace officers of the state who made the ultimate sacrifices. The names of the fallen that will be on the signs are to be remembered and revered forever.

Memorial signs to the survivors are a tribute to their loved ones. They also allow us to express love, admiration, and gratitude in a meaningful way.

Real heroes never die as long as we keep their memory alive.

Thank you for your consideration and Bill 2277 for preserving the memories of the fallen peace officers of North Dakota.

Lana Sleeper

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lana Sleeper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.