2025 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1618

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1618
2/4/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of public instruction for tribal school infrastructure grants.

2:52 p.m. Chairman Heinert called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck, Representatives, Conmy, Hager, Hatlestad, Hauck, Heilman, Jonas, Longmuir, Maki, Marchall, Morton, Novak, Osowski

Discussion Topics:

- Tribal School funding
- School infrastructure needs

2:53 p.m. Representative Finley- DeVille introduced the bill and submitted testimony. #34628 #34733

2:58 p.m. Representative Collette Brown, testified in favor.

Additional written testimony:

Jayme Davis, District 9 Representative, Testimony in Support (#34335)

Erika Red Tomahawk, Tribal-State Policy Coordinator for North Dakota Native Vote, Testimony in Support (#34535)

3:03 p.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

Addison Randazzo for Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

Legislative Assembly

North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360

Representative Jayme Davis
District 9
601 John Street
Rolette, ND 58366-7209
jdavis@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:
Human Services
Political Subdivisions

February 4, 2025

Good afternoon Chairman Heinert, Vice Chair Schreiber-Beck, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 1618. This legislation is about more than just funding—it is about ensuring that students attending tribal schools have access to safe, modern, and fully functioning learning environments. For too long, tribal schools have operated with aging infrastructure, struggling to secure the resources necessary to maintain and improve their facilities. This bill provides a crucial step forward by appropriating funds for tribal school infrastructure grants, allowing these schools to apply for support while also requiring a local match to ensure shared investment in these improvements.

Education is the foundation of opportunity, but no student can reach their full potential in a school that lacks the basic facilities needed for a quality learning experience. However, this is not just about bricks and mortar—it is about long-term investment in North Dakota's future. Tribal schools educate students who will become the workforce of tomorrow, contributing to the economic and social fabric of our state. When we invest in their infrastructure, we invest in their ability to learn, grow, and achieve their full potential. House Bill 1618 recognizes this need and offers a practical, responsible path to addressing it.

This is a common-sense approach. The matching funds requirement ensures that schools and their communities are committed partners in these projects while allowing state resources to go further. It is a fiscally responsible way to support school improvements while ensuring accountability. More importantly, it sends a message that North Dakota values all of its students and is willing to make meaningful investments in their future.

I urge this committee to support House Bill 1618 and take a necessary step toward strengthening the educational infrastructure for tribal schools. These students deserve the same opportunities as any other child in our state, and that begins with the buildings where they learn. Thank you for your time, and I appreciate your support of this important legislation.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and I will stand for any questions.

North Dakota Native Vote
919 S 7th Street
Suite 603
Bismarck, ND 58504

February 4, 2025

Testimony of Erika Red Tomahawk,
Tribal-State Policy Coordinator North Dakota Native Vote
In Support for HB 1618

Dear Chairman Ruby and members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Erika Red Tomahawk, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of North Dakota Native Vote, an organization founded in 2018 to address the disparities affecting tribal communities in North Dakota. I am also a direct descendant of the Standing Rock Sioux Nation and a graduate of Fort Yates Public School (District 4).

I am here today to express my support for House Bill 1618, which provides essential funding for tribal school infrastructure grants. Many of our tribal schools face significant challenges due to aging buildings and outdated facilities. These conditions make it difficult for students to thrive and receive the high-quality education they deserve.

HB 1618 would allow tribal schools to apply for funding to make necessary infrastructure improvements. The matching funds requirement in the bill ensures that local communities also have a stake in the success of these projects, while helping to maximize the use of state resources.

Investing in the infrastructure of our tribal schools is an investment in the future of North Dakota. All students, regardless of where they live, deserve safe and modern learning environments. This bill will help ensure that tribal schools have the same opportunities to succeed as their peers in other parts of the state.

I urge the committee to give a **"Do Pass" recommendation** on **House Bill 1618**. This legislation is a vital step in providing equitable educational opportunities for tribal students across North Dakota.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Erika Red Tomahawk

Representative Finley-DeVille

Introduction of House Bill 1618

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille. I represent District 4A, which includes MHA Nation. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce HB 1618 as the primary sponsor. House Bill 1618 seeks to provide appropriations to the Department of Public Instruction for Tribal School Infrastructure Grants.

I'd like to take a moment to address a specific request that was made by Spirit Lake Chairwoman Lonna Street in our ND State and Tribal committee meeting—support for improvements to the parking lot at Four Winds School. This request highlights an often overlooked but important piece of infrastructure that directly impacts the safety and accessibility of a school.

While the bill before us is focused on providing broader infrastructure grants for tribal schools, I want to emphasize that we understand the importance of addressing even the most foundational needs, like parking lots. The school in question has an outdated and unsafe parking lot that poses challenges for students, staff, and visitors every day. This parking lot does not meet the needs of the community.

HB 1618 gives the Department of Public Instruction the flexibility to allocate funding for infrastructure projects based on the priorities of individual schools. If parking lot improvements are a critical need for this school, then those funds can be used to ensure that it becomes a safer, more functional space. This would not only address immediate safety concerns but also improve the overall environment of the school.

I ask for a Do Pass recommendation in support of HB 1618. Thank you for your support.

#34733

PROPOSAL

TRI-STATE PAVING, INC.

COMPLETE COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
CONSTRUCTION OF ASPHALT

3838

PO Box 13156
Grand Forks, ND 58208

Office Toll Free: 1-866-312-7325
wepave4u@hotmail.com

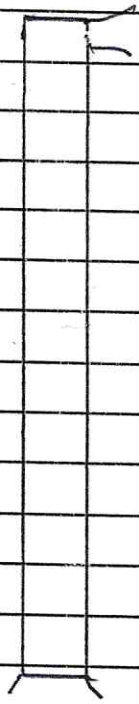
Mark Wavra (Owner)
Cell (218) 791-8121

Bob Clauson (Owner)
Cell (218) 779-6430

Mark Engebretson (Estimator)
Cell (218) 289-7170

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO Spirit Lake Tribe	PHONE	DATE 11/20/25
STREET P.O Box 129	JOB NAME Pave Transfer Rd	ARCHITECT Mark
CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE Fort Totten N.D 58335	JOB LOCATION Fort Totten	CONTACT Ryan; Cora
	FAX # Bfa #25	CELLULAR

We hereby submit specifications and estimates for:



1.) Road 6,870 x 30

2.) Ak will shape existing base to have a uniform slope, would waterjack

3.) Ak would, Then Apply 2 lifts of asphalt to average 5" of asphalt with emulsion tack Between lifts

4.) Our temp of the asphalt would be between 270-300 degrees depending on weather conditions.

5.) Our asphalt design is Faa 43

*Some ponding may occur using existing base. *Not responsible for any private underground utilities or sprinklers.

WE PROPOSE hereby to furnish material and labor - complete in accordance with above specifications, for the sum of: One Million Six hundred twenty six Thousand Six Hundred Fifty seven & 90/100 dollars ($ 1,626,657.90).

Payment to be made as follows: *Late payment 1½% per month*

15% down - 406,664.75 Half of remaining bill after First lift - 609,996.75 Remaining When Completed 609,996.75

All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work to be completed in a workmanlike manner according to standard practices. Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed only upon written orders, and will become an extra charge over and above all estimates. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents or delays beyond our control. Owner to carry fire, tornado, and other necessary insurance. Our workers are fully covered by Workman's Compensation Insurance.

Authorized Signature _____

Note: This proposal may be withdrawn by us if not accepted within _____ days.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL - The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified. Payment will be made as outlined above.

Date of Acceptance: _____

Signature _____

Signature _____

PROPOSAL

TRI-STATE PAVING, INC.

COMPLETE COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
CONSTRUCTION OF ASPHALT

3589

PO Box 13156
Grand Forks, ND 58208

Office Toll Free: 1-866-312-7325
wepave4u@hotmail.com

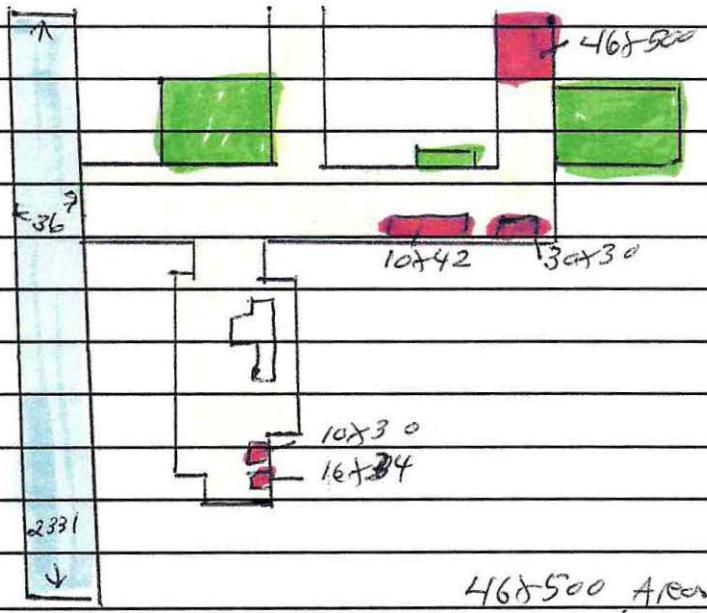
Mark Wavra (Owner)
Cell (218) 791-8121

Bob Clauson (Owner)
Cell (218) 779-6430

Mark Engebretson (Estimator)
Cell (218) 289-7170

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO Spirit Lake Tribe	PHONE	DATE 1/20/25
STREET P.O Box 129	JOB NAME Asphalt Repair	ARCHITECT Mark
CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE Fort Totten ND 58335	JOB LOCATION at School Fort	CONTACT Ryan Cova
	FAX # Totten	CELLULAR

We hereby submit specifications and estimates for:



Blue Area
We would mill Area needed Then clean Apply tack oil and then put down a average overlay of 2" Hotmix = 343,555

Green Area
We would mill area needed then clean lots, Apply tackoil and then put down a 2" Average Asphalt overlay = 464,763

Red : Yellow Area
Area's in Red would be patched 468x500 Area would be excavated down 10" then replaced with fabric class 5 gravel 6" and 4" Hot Mix. We would Then mill Area needed in yellow, then clean Apply tack oil then put down a 2" Average Asphalt = 925,751

*Some ponding may occur using existing base. *Not responsible for any private underground utilities or sprinklers.

WE PROPOSE hereby to furnish material and labor - complete in accordance with above specifications, for the sum of: One Million Seven Hundred thirty four thousand Sixty Nine 40/100 dollars ($1,734,069).

Payment to be made as follows: *Late payment 1½% per month*

25% Down = 433,517.35 50% Completion 650,276.05 Final payment 650,276

All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work to be completed in a workmanlike manner according to standard practices. Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed only upon written orders, and will become an extra charge over and above all estimates. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents or delays beyond our control. Owner to carry fire, tornado, and other necessary insurance. Our workers are fully covered by Workman's Compensation Insurance.

Authorized Signature Mark Wavra

Note: This proposal may be withdrawn by us if not accepted within _____ days.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL - The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified. Payment will be made as outlined above.

Signature _____

Date of Acceptance: _____

Signature _____

PROPOSAL

TRI-STATE PAVING, INC.

COMPLETE COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION OF ASPHALT

3590

PO Box 13156
Grand Forks, ND 58208

Office Toll Free: 1-866-312-7325
wepave4u@hotmail.com

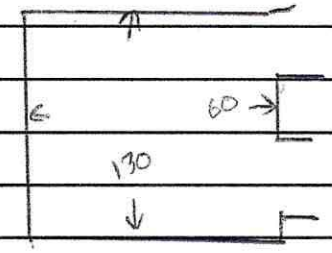
Mark Wavra (Owner)
Cell (218) 791-8121

Bob Clauson (Owner)
Cell (218) 779-6430

Mark Engebretson (Estimator)
Cell (218) 289-7170

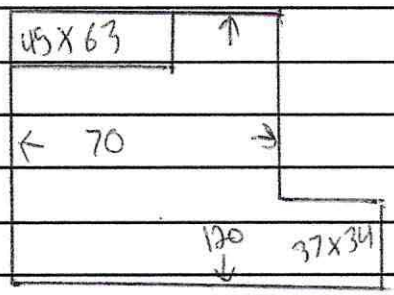
PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO four Winds Community High School	PHONE	DATE 1/20/2025
STREET 7268 N.D 57	JOB NAME	ARCHITECT Mark
CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE Fort Totten N.D 58335	JOB LOCATION	CONTACT Bus Garage
	FAX #	CELLULAR Utility Shed Person Shane

We hereby submit specifications and estimates for:



We will Dig out area 45x63, 37x34 then replace with fabric and 6" Class 5 Gravel and 5" Hotmix

Then Mill areas needed and Put down a average depth of 2" of Hotmix for overlay = 161,723.5



*Some ponding may occur using existing base. *Not responsible for any private underground utilities or sprinklers.

WE PROPOSE hereby to furnish material and labor - complete in accordance with above specifications, for the sum of: One Hundred Sixty One thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Three dollars ($ 161,723).

Payment to be made as follows: *Late payment 1½% per month*

25% Down 40,430.75 Full Payment after Completion Final = 121,292.63

All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work to be completed in a workmanlike manner according to standard practices. Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed only upon written orders, and will become an extra charge over and above all estimates. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents or delays beyond our control. Owner to carry fire, tornado, and other necessary insurance. Our workers are fully covered by Workman's Compensation Insurance.

Authorized Signature Mark Wavra

Note: This proposal may be withdrawn by us if not accepted within _____ days.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL - The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified. Payment will be made as outlined above.

Date of Acceptance: _____

Signature _____

Signature _____

PROPOSAL

TRI-STATE PAVING, INC.

COMPLETE COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
CONSTRUCTION OF ASPHALT

3715

PO Box 13156
Grand Forks, ND 58208

Office Toll Free: 1-866-312-7325
wepave4u@hotmail.com

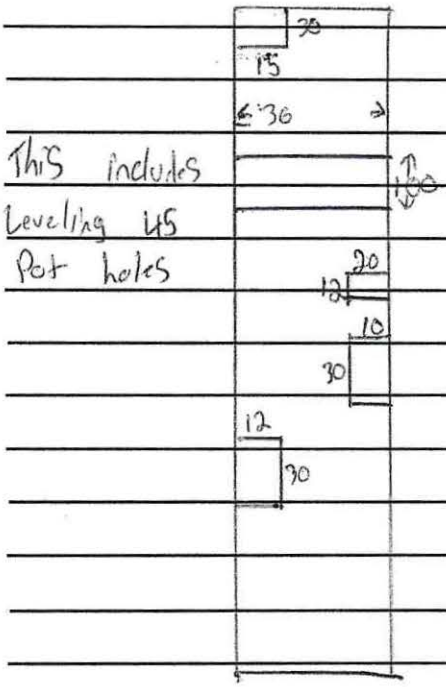
Mark Wavra (Owner)
Cell (218) 791-8121

Bob Clauson (Owner)
Cell (218) 779-6430

Mark Engebretson (Estimator)
Cell (218) 289-7170

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO four winds Community High School	PHONE 766-1400	DATE 1/20/2025
STREET 7268 N.D 57	JOB NAME Additional work	ARCHITECT Mark
CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE fort Totten N.D 58335	JOB LOCATION Bid 3325 Road	CONTACT Perry or Shane
	FAX # Length 2331 X 36	CELLULAR

We hereby submit specifications and estimates for:



This includes Leveling us Pot holes

We will Dig out areas Shewn. Then Replace with fabric, 6" class 5 and 5" Hot Mix 15X50, 100X36. 12X20 10X30, 12X30

= 82,939.05

*Some ponding may occur using existing base. *Not responsible for any private underground utilities or sprinklers.

WE PROPOSE hereby to furnish material and labor - complete in accordance with above specifications, for the sum of: Eighty two Thousand Nine Hundred thirty nine & 05/100 dollars ($ 82,939.05).

Payment to be made as follows: *Late payment 1½% per month*

Down 20,734 to full Payment upon Completion Balance - 82,939.05

All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work to be completed in a workmanlike manner according to standard practices. Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed only upon written orders, and will become an extra charge over and above all estimates. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents or delays beyond our control. Owner to carry fire, tornado, and other necessary insurance. Our workers are fully covered by Workman's Compensation Insurance.

Authorized Signature Mark Wavra

Note: This proposal may be withdrawn by us if not accepted within _____ days.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL - The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified. Payment will be made as outlined above.

Date of Acceptance: _____

Signature _____

Signature _____

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1618
2/5/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of public instruction for tribal school infrastructure grants.

5:16 p.m. Chairman Heinert called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck, Representatives, Conmy, Hager, Hatlestad, Hauck, Heilman, Jonas, Longmuir, Maki, Marchall, Morton, Novak, Osowski

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

5:17 p.m. Representative Heilman moved a Do Not Pass.

5:17 p.m. Representative Hauck seconded the motion.

5:19 p.m. Representative Heilman rescinded his motion.

5:19 p.m. Representative Heilman moved a Do Pass and Rereferred to Appropriations.

5:19 p.m. Representative Conmy seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	N
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	N
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	N
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	N
Representative Dori Hauck	N
Representative Matthew Heilman	N
Representative Jim Jonas	N
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	N
Representative Roger A. Maki	N
Representative Andrew Marschall	N
Representative Desiree Morton	N
Representative Anna S. Novak	N
Representative Doug Osowski	N

Motion Failed: 1-13-0

5:25 p.m. Representative Morton moved a Do Not Pass.

5:25 p.m. Representative Heilman seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion Carried: 14-0-0

5:27 p.m. Representative Novak moved to place bill on the Consent Calander.

5:27 p.m. Representative Morton seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion Carried: 14-0-0

Bill Carrier: Representative Maki

5:29 p.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

Addison Randazzo for Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1618 (25.1331.01000)

Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1618 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.