

Testimony prepared for the
Transportation Committee
01/29/2021
Chad Kaiser
Stutsman County Sheriff

RE: In Support Testimony for HB1481 Increased fines on closed roads during a weather event.

Chair and committee members, I'm Chad Kaiser Stutsman County Sheriff and I am in support of HB 1481.

During a weather event when roads are closed is a hectic time for all Emergency Responders. In the last couple years, we have had a few storms that closed roads due to accumulation of snow and visibility. Once a road is closed during a weather event, we usually see travelers going around barricades or finding a secondary road that are also closed and travelers will try and make it around primary road closures to get to their destination.

This typically causes a big problem for Emergency Responders. When we get called out to accidents and to people who are stuck and or blocking the road. Once roads are closed Responders get called out to these vehicles that are stranded or become stuck and need assistance. Having vehicles out on roads that are closed causes problems for Emergency workers that are out on those roads to either clear them from stranded vehicles, or to plow them open from snow, or dealing with injury accidents. Travelers driving on closed roads are dangerous to Emergency Responders working on the road.

I believe increasing the fine to \$500 is more than reasonable (Should be \$1000), and may make some travelers to think twice before traveling on closed roads during a weather event.