

Dear Senators,

I urge you to vote **Do Not Pass** on **HB 1258**.

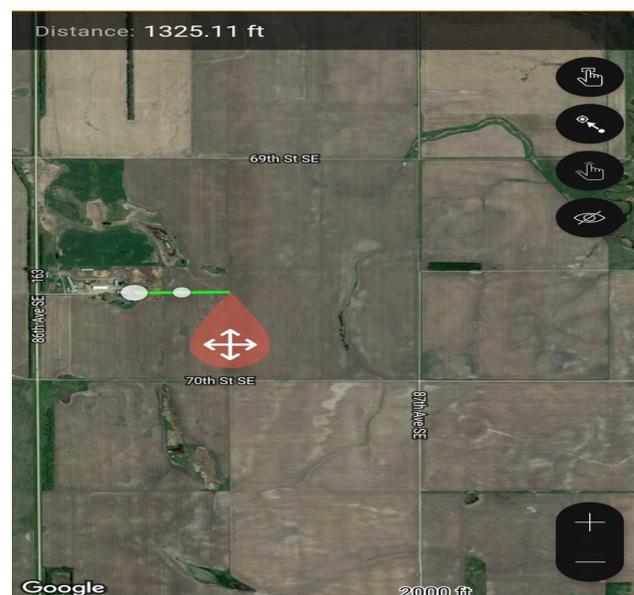
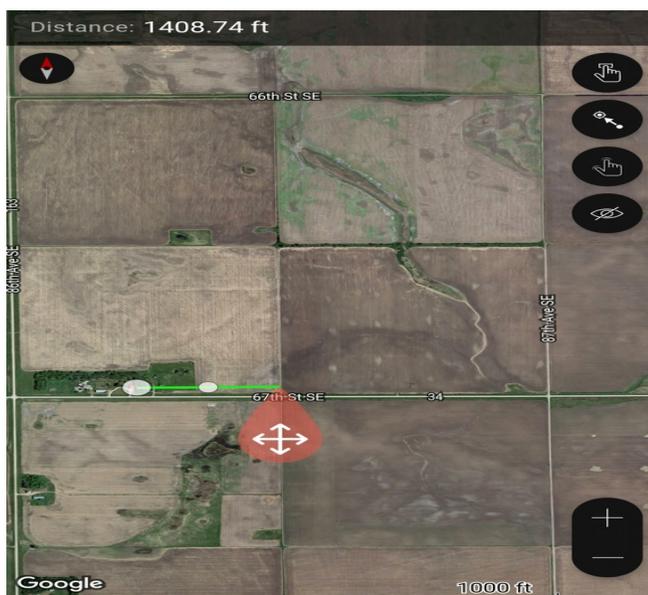
My name is Cody Rupp, and I serve as a supervisor on the Wano Township Board in LaMoure County. I am writing to express our township's serious concerns regarding **HB 1258** and the detrimental impact it would have on local governance, landowners' rights, and public safety.

Our township previously denied the *Conditional Use Permit* for Otter Tail Power Co. regarding the JETx high-voltage transmission line project. This decision was based on clear conflicts with multiple goals and regulations outlined in our township's comprehensive zoning plan:

- *GOAL #1 Preserve the Township's agricultural heritage*
- *GOAL #2 Protect public health, safety and welfare by deterring incompatible land uses from harming conforming land uses.*
- *GOAL #4 Ensure and maintain the public participation in land use decisions affecting the Township.*

Wano Township contains some of the most productive farmland in LaMoure County. High-voltage transmission lines pose a fire risk to crop fields, yet Multiple Peril Crop Insurance does not cover fire damage caused by power lines. This forces landowners to purchase additional insurance—an uncompensated financial burden under Otter Tail Power Co.'s 99+ year easement. Also, any yield loss goes on farmers' Actual Production History (APH) record for the next 10 years. It also creates a visual blight that reduces the value of farmland and farmsteads for the rest of our lifetime. If it was a project that increased land value, owners wouldn't be fighting to stop this unnecessary JETx project.

Beyond property value, the proposed transmission line also threatens the health and safety of established residents. The current route places the line within 1,500 feet of two farmsteads in Wano township alone.



Representative Mike Brandenburg gave testimony that a ½ mile (2,640 ft) setback is “not reasonable.” This is false—there is sufficient space to adjust the route, if it were to happen. Representatives and companies planning future infrastructure need to engage meaningfully with landowners rather than dismissing their concerns as “impossible” to accommodate.

HB 1258 would strip townships and landowners of their right to participate in decisions that directly affect them, by shifting authority to just three members of the Public Service Commission. This creates a severe imbalance of power and contradicts my duty as a township supervisor to uphold public participation in land use decisions. It is troubling that representatives sponsoring this bill—particularly from Districts 12, 28, and 29—have ensured the JETx route avoids their own properties while forcing it upon others.

I strongly urge you to reject **HB 1258**. This bill undermines local governance, disregards landowner rights, and sets a dangerous precedent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cody M. Rupp
Wano Township Supervisor