

2025 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1182

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1182
1/16/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of transportation for a road project grant.

10:02 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman D. Ruby, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Finley-DeVille, Frelich, Hendrix, Johnston, Kasper, Koppelman, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz
Members Absent: Vice Chair Grueneich

Discussion Topics:

- Road washed out half of the year
- Effect on local businesses
- Loss of revenue and tourist traffic
- State funds and why they were not rewarded

10:03 a.m. Representative Mike Brandenburg, District 28, introduced the bill.

10:08 a.m. Haley Moen, Owner, Hearthside Winery, testified in favor and provided testimony, #29282

10:16 a.m. Chad Orn, Deputy Director of Planning, ND DOT, stood for any questions from the committee.

Additional written testimony:

Kausha Magill, Director, Oakes Area Chamber of Commerce, submitted testimony in favor, #29301.

Rebecca Udem, Founder and Executive Director, Growing Small Towns, submitted testimony in favor, #29307.

Aaron Held, President, Oakes Golf Club, submitted testimony in favor, #29408.

10:31 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the hearing.

Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk

HEARTSIDE

VINEYARD AND WINERY

Dear Chairman Ruby and Members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Haley Moen and I am the owner of Hearthside 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.

Hearthside 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. Hearthside's 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, Hearthside LLC

January 14, 2025
Kausha Magill
Director
Oakes Area Chamber of Commerce
510 Main Ave.
Oakes, ND 58474



Dear Chairman Ruby and Members of the Transportation Committee,

The Oakes Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to support House Bill 1182, which provides funding for the much-needed improvement of 86th St SE water crossing. This project is essential for maintaining access to local businesses and ensuring the economic success of Oakes and surrounding areas.

Our organization represents a diverse group of businesses dedicated to enriching the community and fostering economic opportunities. Safe and accessible roads are fundamental for businesses to thrive, attract visitors, and support the livelihoods of local residents. The current state of the road over Bear Creek poses challenges for commerce and tourism, making this improvement a necessary step for growth in our rural community.

House Bill 1182 offers an opportunity to address these challenges head-on, acknowledging the unique obstacles faced by rural communities and emphasizing the importance of investing in public infrastructure to strengthen rural economies. By improving this crossing, the region will gain better access to businesses and opportunities that enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. The impact of this improvement will extend beyond immediate needs, providing long-term benefits to the broader community.

We strongly urge the committee to recognize the importance of this effort and urge a "do pass" recommendation for House Bill 1182. Thank you for your consideration and your dedication to advancing the needs of our communities through infrastructure improvements.

Sincerely,
Kausha Magill
701-742-3508
Director
Oakes Area Chamber of Commerce



January 14, 2025

RE: Support for HB1182

Dear Chairman Ruby and members of the House Transportation Committee:

My name is Rebecca Undem and for the past four years, I served the Oakes community as our economic developer. I also am the Founder and Executive Director of Growing Small Towns, a nonprofit dedicated to helping small communities thrive.

Through both roles, I've spent countless hours working with Hearthside Vineyard and Winery to help them overcome the challenges of starting a new business as nuanced and complicated as theirs.

I strongly support HB1182 which would create a safe and legal stream crossing on the only road that provides public access to the land on which Hearthside's vineyard is already planted. Until the land was purchased and slated for development, there was no clear economic need to build this infrastructure.

Now, not only does the lack of a properly-coded crossing impede Hearthside's ability to build its facility, but it also prohibits any other businesses from starting in this location in the future. All avenues for getting this infrastructure built through local means have been explored and exhausted; rural resources for these types of projects are limited and priority will always be given to emergencies or what's perceived to be higher ROI investments.

Haley Moen returning to Oakes to continue her family's farming legacy as a 26-year-old woman with a business plan that is, by all measures, a game changer for our town, is what all small communities want. This infrastructure doesn't just help one individual build their dream; it's a strategic investment in the future of Oakes. With a local amenity of this caliber, we will see an economic impact through increased visitorship, word-of-mouth marketing of Oakes, and easier resident recruitment.

I strongly urge the committee's recommendation of a "do pass" on HB1182.

Sincerely,

Rebecca J. Undem
Growing Small Towns
510 Main Avenue
Oakes, ND 58474

Oakes Golf Club
8587 ND HWY 1 PO Box 366
Oakes, ND 58474-0366
(701) 742-2405
January 13, 2025

House Bill No. 1182

Chairman Ruby and the Members of the Transportation Committee,

The board members of Oakes Golf Club strongly support House Bill 1182. This bill would bring forth a lasting solution to flooding issues we have been struggling with for decades.

Since 1995, our golf course operations have been significantly impacted by flooding caused by the creek crossing on 86th St SE. Our 9-hole course is located on both sides of Bear Creek, directly upstream from the proposed road project site. Over the years we have invested in a series of projects on our land to combat the flooding caused by water being held back by the roadway; however, challenges still persist. An improvement to the road holding back water would alleviate persistent flooding issues and allow us to maintain reliable access to the second portion of our course. This would enable us to operate our club smoothly, avoiding the recurring disruptions that have led to revenue losses over the years.

The proposed road project not only protects and preserves the integrity of our golf course infrastructure but also supports local businesses and tourism, aiding in economic growth of our area.

This project also represents a vital investment in rural North Dakota, addressing public safety concerns, minimizing flood risks, and supporting the livelihoods of businesses and residents who depend on this infrastructure.

By advancing House Bill 1182 with a supportive recommendation, you will play an important role in protecting rural infrastructure, enhancing economic opportunities, and supporting the resilience of our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Aaron Held
Oakes Golf Club - President

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1182
1/24/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of transportation for a road project grant.

10:50 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman D. Ruby, Vice Chairman Grueneich, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Finley-DeVile, Frelich, Johnston, Hendrix, Kasper, Koppelman, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz

Discussion Topics:

- SIF Fund
- Flexible Transportation Fund
- Dollar amount
- Culvert replacement

10:50 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby suggested that the correct fund to use would be the Flexible Transportation Fund as opposed the SIF Fund.

10:54 a.m. Vice Chaiman Grueneich would like to see the bill go to Appropriations to keep the bill alive.

10:56 Chairman D. Ruby closed the meeting.

Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1182
1/30/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of transportation for a road project grant.

4:26 p.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman D. Ruby, Vice Chairman Grueneich, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Frelich, Johnston, Hendrix, Koppelman, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz

Members Absent: Representatives Kasper, Finley-DeVille

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

4:33 p.m. Representative Koppelman moved a Do Not Pass.

4:33 p.m. Representative Schatz seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Dan Ruby	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	N
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Ty Dressler	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille	AB
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	AB
Representative Ben Koppelman	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y

4:34 p.m. Motion passed 11-1-2.

4:34 p.m. Representative Dressler will carry the bill.

4:34 p.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the meeting.

Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1182 ([25.0726.01000](#))

Transportation Committee (Rep. D. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (11 YEAS, 1 NAY, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1182 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.