

RESOLUTION #03-25-19-01
OPPOSING SENATE STUDY BILL 1045 AND SENATE FILE 184 PASSED BY THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the Transportation Committee in the Iowa Senate has passed House Study Bill 1045 (SF 184) which would amend and make changes to Iowa Code Chapter 321 related to transportation of indivisible loads and raw forestry products on primary and non-primary highways, and;

WHEREAS, Muscatine County owns and maintains nonprimary highways, and is fiscally and legally responsible for the nonprimary highways within the County, and;

WHEREAS, Muscatine County owns and maintains 138 structures classified as bridges by the National Bridge Inspection Standards, and;

WHEREAS, many of the bridges owned by Muscatine County are aging and structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, and;

WHEREAS, current funding is not adequate to replace or rehabilitate these bridges at the rate their conditions are deteriorating, and;

WHEREAS, the nonprimary roads and bridges owned by Muscatine County serve a critical need for residents, agricultural users, businesses, schools, post offices, and emergency responders, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed bill would allow the Iowa Department of Transportation to issue annual permits to forestry industry haulers for loads up to 130,000 pounds on nonprimary highways throughout Iowa, without knowledge of or notice given to the agencies which own these highways and the structures thereon, and;

WHEREAS, bridges within Muscatine County have been designed for loads that were legal on Iowa roads at the time of their construction, and bridges have only been rated or posted with weight restrictions for loads that are currently legal on roads, and;

WHEREAS, each bridge within Muscatine County is unique based on its age, design, and current condition, and;

WHEREAS, load rating to ensure safe passage of loads greater than 80,000 pounds would be unique for each load on each individual bridge, and;

WHEREAS, the traversing of Muscatine County bridges by loads up to 130,000 pounds without the County being afforded the knowledge of or the ability to restrict each occurrence, would result in gradual and possibly sudden failure of bridges within the County, and;

WHEREAS, Muscatine County would likely bear legal and financial liability for subsequent failure of its bridges, even if such failures are caused by loads they did not permit, and;

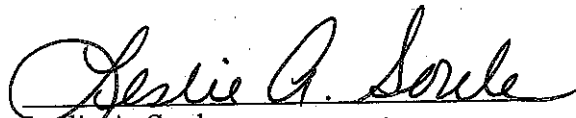
WHEREAS, Muscatine County is not financially able to repair or replace bridges which would be subject to accelerated deterioration by increased loads, and;

WHEREAS, Muscatine County and its residents, farmers, businesses, schools, post offices, and emergency responders, would be subjected to undue operational and economic hardships by further degradation of its road system and the structures thereon;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors strongly urges all Iowa lawmakers to vote in opposition to this legislation.

PASSED and APPROVED this 25th day of March, 2019.

ATTEST:



Leslie A. Soule
Muscatine County Auditor



Nathan Mather, Chairperson
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors