



Representative Roy Klopfenstein

82<sup>nd</sup> House District

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 431.

This legislation aims to honor the life and legacy of Staff Sergeant Zachary Wobler by naming a section of U.S. Route 127 after him, adjacent to where he grew up. Sergeant Wobler bravely served his country and tragically lost his life on February 6th, 2005, during his second deployment with the 82nd Airborne Division in Mosul, Iraq, as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Wobler was a natural leader who deeply cared for his fellow soldiers. Despite being told he needed knee surgery and could return home during his first deployment, he chose to stay and lead his team in Iraq. Throughout his career, he was recognized as the 82nd Airborne's Paratrooper of the Year and received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He now rests in Arlington Cemetery.

His daughter is following in his footsteps by studying homeland security in college, which I'm sure would make Sergeant Wobler proud.

I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you all for your time and I will take questions at this time.