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**SB 2085 Testimony
Dr. Ethan Andress
North Dakota State Veterinarian
House Agriculture
J-Wing 327C
March 6, 2025**

Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture committee, I am Dr. Ethan Andress, North Dakota State Veterinarian. I am here on behalf of Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, and the State Board of Animal Health. I will testify on SB 2085.

SB 2085 is a bill to grant the Agriculture Commissioner authority as the Official State Agency (OSA) for the United States Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP). US SHIP is modeled after the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).

The intent of US SHIP is to create an organized infrastructure in preparation for an African Swine Fever Virus (ASF) or Classical Swine Fever Virus (CSF) incursion. These diseases have been devastating on the world stage and any diagnosis in this country has the potential to devastate the US's ability to sell pork on the world market.

US SHIP is an industry driven, private entity, funded by the federal government, that coordinates with the state animal health officials

(SAHO) and state industry leaders. US SHIP is governed by a House of Delegates (HOD) with representation from all participating states and in association with the state OSA.

Our office, the North Dakota Pork Council (NDPC), and other industry members participate at the HOD meetings. Our pork industry, through the NDPC, has indicated they would like the Agriculture Commissioner to serve as the OSA, in a similar manner to NPIP.

I would encourage supporting the bill granting us the authority to assist with this industry driven program.

Thank you, and I will stand for any questions.