

Chairman Beltz and Members of the House Agriculture Committee,

My name is Erik Olson and I currently live in Richland County. Just a few years ago, my wife and I recently moved back to the town where I grew up and have loved so much called Abercrombie, ND. We have put our entire life savings into fixing up an old farmstead just south of town where we have planned to spend the rest of our lives together along with our future family. Now, we are being threatened with a mega dairy just 2 miles from our farmstead. This has just about completely shattered what we have worked for so hard to create.

The developers who have produced these odor footprint tools, clearly are for the betterment of the livestock industry and not for the people.

These odor footprint tools look at so many different scientific factors to come up with specific results. The factors needed to “estimate the amount of odor emitted” from a particular livestock site, include: Animal species, housing types, manure storage, manure handling methods, size of the odor source, implementation of odor control technologies, and the location related to local climate. But what about the factors of the people and how this will negatively affect us? This tool was designed to address concerns between livestock production facilities and community residences. But again, doesn’t take local residents within the actual calculation. These are people that have lived in rural communities for their entire lives that won’t ever get to be included in determining such results for either existing, expanding, or new animal production sites.

There are residents from all over pleading for our government to take a stand with us and to protect us in our State against what is ultimately going to negatively impact and cause irreversible damage. This bill is something that would benefit the exact unwanted dairy that my community is being threatened with. We feel that we are being bullied by our government and pushed aside to let these CAFOs come into our state. We look to the elected officials to do what is right for us. Please ask yourself without any government pressure...Is this bill going to benefit the people of the state? Just look at the all the opposition testimonies that have been submitted and understand that these are voices from the people that are asking you to consider us as individuals who love our state, over these livestock corporations.

I appreciate you giving me the time to speak with you today and I ask that you vote for a DO NOT PASS on bill 2174. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.