



In Favor of SB 2174

House Agriculture

March 7, 2025

Chairman Beltz and Committee members:

For the record, my name is Drew Courtney. I farm in Oakes and serve as a board member for the North Dakota Corn Growers Association. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 2174.

The Corn Growers were actively engaged in the Model Zoning Task Force that reviewed this portion of Century Code during the interim. We support the inclusion of the odor footprint tool developed by the Agriculture Commissioner. This tool will give political subdivisions flexibility to extend or reduce setback distances based on local conditions.

We do have one concern with the bill, which is the lack of enforcement for local governments with zoning ordinances that are out of compliance. We would support a mechanism other than a lawsuit to address non-compliance.

We appreciate the Legislature's investments over the last biennium to expand animal agriculture in the state. SB 2174 will continue that important work, and we urge a "Do Pass" recommendation. Thank you for your consideration, and I will stand for questions.