

**Testimony in Support of SB 2148****Jeremy Maher, Sioux County Rancher**

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jeremy Maher, and I am a rancher from Sioux County, North Dakota. I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2148.

This bill proposes moving the estray fund to the unclaimed property division of the state school land lease department. I believe this is a critical step in ensuring transparency and accountability in the management of unclaimed cattle.

Currently, the estray fund is handled by a private organization with minimal state oversight. This lack of transparency is concerning, especially when these resources should be managed in a way that benefits the public and aligns with state priorities. By transferring the fund to the unclaimed property division under state management, we place this responsibility in the hands of an organization that operates with clear oversight and accountability.

Additionally, at a time when taxpayers are seeking real estate tax relief, this measure will contribute positively by ensuring that resources are used effectively and transparently. It's a commonsense solution that supports the interests of our ranching community and the broader public.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a "Do Pass" recommendation for SB 2148. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.