



**TESTIMONY OF KAYLA PULVERMACHER  
TO THE  
HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
ON  
HB 1172**

**January 21, 2021**

Chairman Johnson:

My name is Kayla Pulvermacher, and I'm here to represent the members of Dakota Credit Union Association (DakCU). DakCu is the professional trade association serving 492,000 members in 71 credit unions with 230 branches between North Dakota and South Dakota. We oppose HB 1072; specifically, the new language added to NDCC 6-09.10-04.

DakCu is a strong supporter of North Dakota's agricultural mediation services. We believe it provides additional avenues for the financial institution and the producer to come to an agreement. However, this bill could do the opposite of what it intends to do. As we interpret the new language on lines 12 -15 of the bill, it will not allow a lender currently in mediation to commence legal action. We are not required to participate in mediation services, and it would become a risky endeavor to do so. We do not believe that this provision would be in the best interest of either party.

We understand the sponsor's intentions to help farmers and ranchers that are going through significant financial strain. Credit Unions also have that objective; in fact, it is part of our mission to help those that are financially stressed. We hope to work with the bill sponsors and other affected stakeholders to find a workable solution.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome any questions the committee may have.