

HB 1487  
Relating to the Beef Checkoff.

Testimony Provided: In Opposition to HB 1487

Testimony **in Opposition** to HB 1487 presented to the  
House Agriculture Committee on Feb. 5, 2021

Greetings Mr. Chairman and members of the House Agriculture Committee.

My name is Joy Patten. I am a cow-calf producer and president of the North Dakota CattleWomen. I stand opposed to HB 1487.

As a producer, I have always supported both the national and North Dakota beef checkoff programs. Checkoff dollars serve to accomplish advocacy, research, and promotion goals that producers, individually, cannot.

As president of the North Dakota CattleWomen, I see the direct results of beef checkoff projects. Our organization of volunteers works statewide to promote and educate about beef. The access to materials that are research based, up to date, and high quality is critical to our success as we carry out our beef advocacy activities, which benefit ALL beef producers.

I am opposed to HB 1487 because of the following:

- If passed, this bill would make assessment/collection of checkoff dollars from producers who wish to support the ND checkoff a miserable, inconsistent, and time consuming process.
- The loss of checkoff funds would be crippling for most, if not all, current and future checkoff funded projects.
- This bill does not represent the wishes of a vast majority of beef producers in North Dakota.
- The law currently in place is consistent with other commodity checkoff programs in North Dakota. Those who don't support the checkoff can easily request a refund under current statute.

I strongly urge you to vote DO NOT PASS on HB 1487.

Sincerely,

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