



BECKER RANCH
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To: House Ag Committee

HB 1487

I Support HB 1487

My name is Patrick Lee Becker I am a farmer/rancher from Sioux County since 1974. I also represented North Dakota on the Cattlemen's Beef Board for six years.

I was at the hearing in 2015 on the additional \$1.00 checkoff. I was in favor of letting the producers vote up or down on the \$1.00 increase that is why I was there.

I remember in 2015 some AG Committee members stressing how this money should stay in North Dakota that day and be used for promotion, research and education in state. 2.3 million dollars sent to the NCBA over five years is not my idea of used in North Dakota

I remember in in 2015 producers numbered near 10,000, today they are numbered at less than 8,500. Losing \$50.00 per head per year for the five years since the additional \$1.00 has been in place is certainly no endorsement for th.is, if anything it's a reason to re-evaluate. I hope it leads to an acknowledgement by the AG Committee that things need to be re-evaluated.

I remember when we had M-COOL the opponents of M-COOL stated we do not need the government mandating M-COOL to our industry. The M-COOL opponents are the same one's that pushed the government to mandate the additional \$1.00 checkoff here in North Dakota. This smack of hypocrisy.

In closing if money is sent out of state by the NDBC every cent should go to the CBB. There is a paper trail and administrative fees are capped at 5% which is accountable in every way. Money sent to the Federation/NCBA has no oversight and I witnessed administration fees as high as 30%. This is in direct violation of the checkoff act and order.

Eliminate this cumbersome checkoff refund process and make it voluntary.

Thank you for your service.