

Chairman Johnson, members of the House Ag Committee,
My name is Frank Tomac from Dist 31 more specifically Sioux County.

I am here in support of HB 1487 because of the lack of accountability.

There has been no accountability for the state checkoff that was implemented in 2015. You'd think that for the last 5 ½ years, someone on the ND Beef Commission would've come up with an idea of letting the producers know where their extra dollar is being spent. That's the accountability I'm talking about.

As a member of the NDFU, NDSA, IBAND, USCA, Rcalf-USA, I voluntarily pay dues to those organizations and in return, I get monthly or quarterly updates through their magazines or newsletters of what their staff is up to, what they've been working on and what they plan to be working on.

Not so with the ND Beef Commission. I am paying, the extra dollar, mandated by you the legislature, and getting almost nothing in return. Yeah, I could go on their website, I can read their annual report, Or I could tear the insert out of the Stockman magazine and read it. But how many producers in the state does that cover? About 30%? So about 70% of the producers of the state do not get the Stockman magazine. Which means 70% of the producers in the state are not informed about the ND Beef Commissions 'annual' report, or what the ND Beef Commission is up to or where our money is being spent.

The 9 members and 2 'ex officio's' on the ND Beef Commission have had over 5 years to figure this out, to better inform the producers, to send out quarterly reports, to keep the money in state. But evidently they feel it's more important to send the money on to the national level, where theoretically 'our dollar gets more bang for the buck'.

I do not support that line of thinking, there needs to be more accountability. And I do not think we should be forced to pay an extra dollar per head when we have no idea what it's being spent on.

I urge you to vote yes and recommend a 'do pass' on HB 1487.

Thank You.

Frank Tomac