

ND House Ag Committee:

My name is Ron Volk and I ranch with my kids South of Sentinel Butte. I am urging you to vote yes on HB 1487. Changing this additional one dollar (\$1) ND beef checkoff to voluntary is the right thing to do for ND Cattlemen. This extra one dollar (\$1) was put into law in 2015 by the ND Legislature; in my opinion it should have been put to a vote of producers, as we are the ones who must pay it. One provision the legislature put on the ND beef commission for the \$1 was for the money to stay in the state, yet the ND beef commission has increased its contributions to the National Beef Federation from \$142,906 in 2015 to \$738,648 in 2020, hardly benefiting the ND producers. Since 2015, calf prices have been cut in half; yet we are expected to pay a tax then jump through hoops to get it refunded. Making this state checkoff voluntary is the only fair way to undo a bad mandate set forth in 2015. Again, I urge you to vote yes to HB 1487.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ron Volk