



**Testimony of Nathan Kroh
Dairy Coordinator
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
Senate Bill 2049
House Agriculture Committee
March 4, 2021**

Chairman Johnson and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am Nathan Kroh, the Dairy Coordinator for the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA), and I am representing Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here today in support of SB 2049, which will amend provisions of the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) §4.1-25 to update federal references in the dairy product regulations.

NDDA regulates milk production from the producer, through the processing and distribution stages to ensure a safe and wholesome product for consumers. NDCC § 4.1-25 is the law that sets the standards and requirements in all phases of production for milk and milk products.

North Dakota adopts federal regulations in NDCC §4.1-25 because the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires every state to adopt the same standards and regulations for interstate shipment of milk and milk products. The National Conference of Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS) is an organization made up of state and federal dairy regulators, producers, and dairy processors. The NCIMS meets every two years to update and revise existing Grade A milk and milk product standards and regulations. The FDA has input and must agree with the revisions to the standards and regulations. NCIMS then publishes the most current versions for

states to adopt into their standards and regulations. This bill updates these references to reflect the most current publications of these federal dairy regulations.

Three of those references are the “Pasteurized Milk Ordinance” (PMO), the “Procedures Governing the Cooperative State-Public Health Service Food/Drug Administration Program of National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments” and the “Methods of Making Sanitation Ratings of Milk Shippers.” The current publication year for these revisions are “2019”.

In addition, our state has adopted the latest edition of “Evaluation of Milk Laboratories,” which also needs to be updated to the 2019 revision. This provides the current laboratory testing requirements and procedures for accreditation and evaluation of milk and milk testing laboratories.

These changes to the state law are important to our dairy industry. Other states cannot accept Grade A milk and milk products from North Dakota, if they are not produced and tested within the nationally adopted requirements established by the NCIMS. We currently have processors that currently ship milk products to nearly every state in the country, so it is important that North Dakota accepts the amendments to keep up to date with the NCIMS requirements for all Grade A milk and milk product interstate shipments.

Chairman Johnson and committee members, thank you for your consideration of SB 2049. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.