

Testimony HB1135

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Testimony in Support for HB1135

To the Honorable Chairman and the members of the Committee, we submit these remarks on behalf of DRC.

Mr. Chairman,

We at DRC favor local control and support keeping foreign ownership out of agriculture in North Dakota. But we would also like to ensure that we take this a step further and make sure that value added agriculture is considered when writing these bills. After reviewing this with HB1503 we believe that these bills should be passed together in order to ensure the most protection for our local farmers and grain elevators.

North Dakota will have to confront foreign governments that have state held interests coming to our state more than ever. We have to be mindful that these organizations and governments, much like out of state corporate interests, do not have our best interests in mind and will often serve their own agenda. Often the goal is similar to the Walmart strategy, drive out the local competition by operating at a loss that they can afford to take and then make the local economy dependent on their company. It's also not uncommon for these companies to take our water rights and resources to operate their operations. When they have them, they will not willingly give them back to us. It's a strategy that has been used for hundreds of years and this law can stop it by not allowing them in to begin with.

We recommend a DO PASS as long as it is passed with HB1503. Thank you for your time and consideration.