



**Testimony of Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner
House Agriculture Committee
327C
February 3, 2023**

Chairman Thomas and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here today in opposition of HB 1135.

This bill may severely hinder current and future agribusiness opportunities in our state. Limiting outside ownership regardless if the business would have foreign government involvement will have an impact on agribusiness especially with seed and chemical industries. It is not to say that ownership should not be scrutinized but there is already federal oversight through CFIUS (Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States). Research and development of new seed and chemical products has to happen in the United States and must be done where the crops are managed, produced, registered and licensed. The majority of developing, testing, evaluation, seed breeding, and seed proliferation are performed by multi national companies that may likely not be owned or headquartered in the United States.

Other states have dealt with this issues by allowing exceptions for research and development companies and also limit there land ownership amounts. I can share the committee language if needed.

Chairman Thomas and committee members, thank you for your time. I urge a do not pass on HB 1135. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.