

Testimony from Jeff Enger
In Support of HB 1153
January 27, 2023

Good morning Chairman Thomas and members of the House Agriculture Committee. For the record my name is Jeff Enger, I am a farmer from the Marion, North Dakota area I am a former North Dakota Corn Utilization Council board member elected and served for eight years, two of those years I was the chair of the board.

I am in the process of expanding my livestock operation to 3200 head capacity in my upgraded feedlot. I feed 200,000 bushels of corn per year and use 5,200 tons of dried distillers grains from the ethanol plant a year. My county, Barnes County produces about 20 million bushels of corn per year.

We own and operate Enger Grain and Livestock, a partnership with my brother, Delray, his son Brandon, my son Justin, and me. We have two full time employees, one with an animal science degree; as well as two more part-time employees at seeding and harvest. We grow corn, soybeans, wheat, and barley. During my time on the Corn Council, we recognized the important work of the Growers Association to advance issues that definitely made the corn growers of the state more profitable. As a farmer now I see the following policy matters important to our operation:

1. Maintain reliable ethanol industry for DDG's
2. Crop insurance
 - A. LRP – Livestock Revenue Protection
 - B. Utilizing wet acres or prevent plant to plant forage crop without penalty
 - C. Utilizing CRP acres every three years for forage
3. Maintaining road infrastructure capabilities
4. Road restriction exemptions for livestock haulers
5. Farm Bill policy
6. AG PACE that works for modern animal agriculture.

This is important work that is among the best return on investment for our states ag producers. It is not different than the Ag Commissioner meeting with the EPA on pesticide regulations or the State Department on border issues that impede our trade with Canada and other policy issues he works on. I'd like to see the Growers Association share with the Council, the corn tax revenues growers pay to make them more productive and successful corn producers in our state.

I am in strong support of HB 1153 and ask for your yes vote. Thank you for your time. I stand for any questions you may have.

701.320.0628
Jvkenger@drtel.net