



**Testimony of Terry Wehlander
North Dakota Corn Utilization Council Vice Chairman
On behalf of the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council
January 27, 2023
In Opposition of HB 1153**

Chairman Thomas and members of the House Agriculture Committee,

For the record, my name is Terry Wehlander and I serve as the Vice Chairman of the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council (Council). I farm in DeLamere, ND. I am a check-off paying corn producer and I am also a dues-paying member of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association (Association).

I am speaking in opposition of HB 1153 on behalf of the Council.

The Council works alongside many national and international organizations to develop corn markets and enhance trade. For example, the Council has four members participating on Advisory Teams for the U.S. Grains Council. I have participated in Corn Quality Roll-out Seminars where I have had the opportunity to speak with buyers of U.S. corn, ethanol, and dried distillers grains. Because of the positive relationship between the U.S. Grains Council and the North Dakota Corn Council we have also seen an increase in international trade teams to North Dakota to speak to producers about our production practices. For example, 209,000 metric tons of corn and 156,000 metric tons of dried distillers grains were purchased after trade teams visits in October 2022 alone. North Dakota corn producers are directly impacted by market development efforts like these that are funded with their checkoff dollars.

We have also worked hard to provide ethanol education to our tech schools and the North Dakota State University farm management program. As a part of the Council's continuing effort to grow awareness around the benefits of ethanol, these programs work to dispel common misconceptions about ethanol and educate future automotive technicians and mechanics. The increase in appreciation for ethanol has a positive impact for North Dakota corn producers as approximately 50% of the corn grown in North Dakota is used in ethanol production.



Additionally, the Council has provided ethanol, carbon, and trade education to North Dakota corn producers.

The Council values producer support of their efforts and the investment that farmers are making into these programs. These programs are directed and guided by the 7 elected Council members working on behalf of 13,000 farmers statewide. These dollars invested by farmers into Council programs help grind more corn, increase profitability and grow new markets.

As a member of the Council executive committee, I have been involved in extensive efforts to get the Association to engage in conversations that would bring the issue at the heart of HB 1153 to resolution. Our chairman, Tysen Rosenau, has had multiple discussions regarding possible programming and compromise. Unfortunately, the Association prefers to have this issue addressed through legislative action.

I am proud of the work that the Council has accomplished over the last 8 years and I am proud to be a part of this organization. I will be terming off of the Council board at the end of March, and I hope that my predecessor will find their time on the Council as rewarding as I have.

However, I am concerned that the progress I have witnessed and the success of the Council will be diminished in the future should HB 1153 pass. For these reasons, I am asking the committee for a "no" vote on HB 1153.