

**House Agriculture Committee**  
**Chairman – Representative Paul Thomas**  
**HB 1371**  
**January 27, 2023**

Testimony of:  
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Chairman Thomas, members of the House Agriculture Committee, my name is Mark Lyman and I am the economic development specialist for the Minot Area Chamber EDC, providing testimony on House Bill 1371.

As recently as March 2022, the Minot Chamber EDC was in early discussions with a Minnesota based company to develop, construct and run an Aquaponics facility in the Minot region. This 190,000 square foot facility had a minimal footprint on the land and would have fit best in a light manufacturing zone. The annual outputs of the project would have provided million of pounds of fresh, green produce and tomatoes – among other options. This produce has a 7 to 20 day grow cycle, and was targeted to be sold within a 4-hour truck drive of Minot – helping us mitigate the food desert realities within our state. The roadblock in the early stages was the law not allowing this innovative form of agriculture that would provide year-round, locally grown produce to be owned, in part, by a corporation.