

To: House Agriculture Committee  
From: Jacy Schafer  
Date: January 27, 2023  
Re: Proponent Testimony for HB1371 – Relating to agricultural definitions, ownership exceptions for beekeeping, agriculture support services, cattle backgrounding and feedlot operations, and raising or producing of livestock by persons that have limited landholdings.

Chairman Thomas, and members of the house agriculture committee, I am Jacy Schafer a fifth-generation cattle producer from Carson, ND. I write in favor of HB1371, North Dakota is falling behind in growing animal agriculture in our state. Our current statute is restricting us from being competitive.

Growing up on diverse agriculture operation, my family is involved in multiple segments of the beef industry. Looking at the opportunities available to the beef industry in North Dakota we desperately need cattle backgrounding and finishing facilities. My family currently operates a backgrounding feedlot but we have to ship our cattle to another state to be finished either in South Dakota, Minnesota, or Nebraska.

It is time that we add value to North Dakota agriculture and that is what this legislation does. While, North Dakota has done a great job at exporting by-product and product for our row crops out of state it is time to source it into growing animal agriculture. I believe that the future of North Dakota's agriculture scene will be determined on loosening the restriction that are currently in place for these facilities to move into our state. We need to start adding value in North Dakota and not exporting it to our competitive states.

Thank you, Chairman Thomas, for seeing the importance of adding value to North Dakota's Agriculture industry. I am looking forward to see where the future of animal agriculture will be in ten years. I would be happy to answer any questions via email or phone.

Thank you,

Jacy