



Testimony of Andrew Mauch, President

North Dakota Corn Growers Association

In SUPPORT of HB 1371

January 27, 2023

Chairman Thomas, Vice Chair Beltz, and members of the House Agriculture Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to share our support of House Bill 1371. For the record, my name is Andrew Mauch, and I am the President of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association (NDCGA), which is the voice of the more than 13,000 corn growers across the state at the grass roots level for issues that impact corn producers. I farm near Mooreton, ND with my family.

Last month, Governor Burgum joined NDSU at the Capitol to unveil a first of its kind comprehensive study of the economic contribution of agriculture in the state. For the year 2020, agriculture contributed nearly \$31 billion to the economy and more than 110,000 jobs. Agriculture has an incredible impact on the economy and the lives of North Dakotans. We believe the future of agriculture in North Dakota is promising.

HB 1371 will expand opportunities to support and grow agriculture in North Dakota. We have seen the opportunities adding livestock to operations has provided for producers in neighboring states. HB 1371 lays out a process to expand livestock in the state while still maintaining reasonable restrictions on corporate ownership of these operations.

Promoting and growing the livestock industry in North Dakota is a top priority for NDCGA. Further developing livestock in the state will open opportunities for individual North Dakota producers, and will also provide an additional in-state market for the corn we grow in state. North Dakota annually produces about 400 million bushels of corn with about half dedicated to ethanol production throughout the state. Each bushel of corn processed by North Dakota ethanol plants produces about 15 pounds of livestock feed (dried distillers grains), yielding nearly 1.5 million total tons of livestock feed, including dry distillers grains, a high-protein feed sought

after by livestock producers. Increasing the livestock in North Dakota would expand the currently small in state market for dry distillers grains, increasing opportunities for corn producers across the state.

The farmgate receipts for animal ag in the state is roughly a dismal 15 percent (85 percent crops), while our neighbors to the east and south of us have closer to 45 or 50 percent from animal agriculture. These are tremendous missed opportunities for value-added ag as you have heard today that are hurting our farmers and our communities, many of which are dwindling from the lack of economic development that animal ag could provide.

This bill is essential in expanding agricultural development which in turn aids producers of corn and other commodities in building valuable markets. We urge your support of HB 1371. Thank you for your time today and I stand for any questions you may have.