

## **Testimony in Opposition to HB 1371**

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To: Members of the House Agriculture Committee

For over 90 years, North Dakota has had a law in place, passed through voter initiative, to help keep our family farms viable by not giving advantage to corporations. In 2016, I joined with 99,975 other North Dakotans to vote against relaxing the anti-corporate farming law. The message is clear: North Dakotans support family farming.

There are many questions I ask you to consider about the outcomes after such a bill would pass:

Will there be an increase in diversity of food sources, farm sizes, and kinds of operations?

Will there be an increase in food that is grown and eaten in the state, or more commodity ingredients leaving the state?

Will there be more people in the state who can access to enough healthy food every day?

Will there be more opportunities and support for new and beginning farmers?

Will this contribute to more locally based, self-reliant food economies?

Will the environmental health of the state be improved or degraded?

Will the social health of our communities be improved or continue to be stretched thin?

Please consider these questions when deciding how to vote on HB 1371.