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Testimony of Doug Goehring
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House Agriculture
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Chairman Thomas and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here today in support of HB 1371, which will add exceptions to 10-6.1 for dairy, cattle finishing, poultry, and swine facilities that lease or own less than 160 acres. My office has worked with producers and grain farmers on multiple approaches to support animal agriculture. One thing that continues to be an issue is business structure restrictions. The bill before you address that and would support our dairy, swine, poultry, and beef feedlots industries. The proposed changes would allow shareholders to invest into livestock entities and provide support for producers starting these capital-intensive businesses. We need operations that will compliment grain farming, not compete. We have watched our numbers continue to shrink while our neighbors in every direction experience growth and continued excitement about animal agriculture.

Chairman Thomas and committee members, thank you for your time. I urge a do pass on HB 1371. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.