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**Testimony of Doug Goehring**  
**Agriculture Commissioner**  
**House Agriculture Committee**  
**Room 327C**  
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Chairman Thomas, and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and I'm here today to support the revised version of HB 1371, allowing authorized livestock farm corporations and limited liability companies to promote animal agriculture in North Dakota.

I reviewed various proposed amendments to North Dakota's anti-corporate farming law. Most of these amendments, in my opinion, will permit animal agriculture producers more feasible business structure options for increased animal agriculture production in North Dakota.

Regarding the most recent proposed amendments to HB 1371, we were able to work with almost all of the proposed changes. We propose some further changes for your consideration, in order to clarify some wording, avoid issues regarding constitutionality, and to remove the potential for extraterritorial regulations of agricultural landholding outside of North Dakota.

Specifically, we replaced “cattle” with “livestock” in order to permit, for example, bison and sheep as well. This also better aligns with proposed term “authorized livestock farm corporation”

We also removed language that could make the amendment constitutionally problematic, based upon court cases in Nebraska, South Dakota and Iowa, who’s anti-corporate farming laws were struck down by the federal courts.

Finally, we put in language to make the proposed amendment more understandable, to remove ambiguity, and to better clarify it for the regulated community.

Chairman Thomas, and committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I’d be happy to answer any questions you may have.