



**Brenda Elmer, Executive Director**  
**North Dakota Corn Growers Association**  
**Neutral testimony for HB 1423**  
**February 2, 2023**

Chairman Thomas and House Agriculture Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to come before you to share neutral testimony of House Bill 1423. For the record, my name is Brenda Elmer and I am the executive director 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.

While we understand what the authors of HB 1423 are trying to do, in getting local governments that are out of compliance with state law on their zoning ordinances to address and fix it, we are unsure of the punitive approach it takes. NDCGA works closely with their local political subdivision such as counties and township officers and value their position. We view them as partners, in fact multiple of our corn grower leaders are or have served on their own township boards, because farmers naturally step up to serve, to contribute when there is a need. There are various political subdivisions across North Dakota that are strapped for resources, and/or do not have the staff to always do what is required. We'd urge the state to reach out and work with those local governments to notify and help them comply, offering assistance and guidance. We give them the benefit of the doubt that they also care about the communities and constituents they serve and will step up if helped.

Thank you for your time today and the opportunity to provide neutral testimony for HB 1423. I stand for any questions you may have.