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**Testimony of Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner
House Agriculture
Room 327C
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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 1423. 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 local livestock zoning ordinances. Two sessions ago the legislators gave me the authority to do zoning reviews at the request of a producer. Since that time, four independent studies have been completed and we reviewed the data and information and found that the local zoning exceeds state law. The Attorney General agreed with the assessment and provided opinions concerning where the county or townships exceeded their authority. The problem remains that to get zoning changed the producer must sue the county or township. All the while the local board get to use the insurance reserve fund, while being in violation of state law. This bill will help bring clarity to the issue and possibly push the zoning authority to change ordnances without lawsuits.

Chairman Thomas and committee members, thank you for your time. I urge a do pass on HB 1423. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.