

Testimony HB1436

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Testimony in Support for HB 1436

To the Honorable Chairman and the members of the Committee We submit these remarks on behalf of DRC.

Mr Chairman,

We would like to offer testimony in support of of HB1436 for the following reasons:

- 1. This bill gives more people a fair chance to participate in the North Dakota Beef Commission.** HB1436 will end a system where independent cattle producers have to join memberships of an organization to be considered for the beef board. As it stands now the people that may be needed to advocate change in the cattle and beef industry are the ones who will be looked over in favor of those that support the status quo. If HB1436 were to be passed it would be the producers who could, with their votes, determine if they are satisfied with the status quo or opt for a change in leadership.
- 2. This bill has a nomination process.** With the current system it is possible for people that no one wants in leadership positions to nominate themselves and put in an application to be appointed with no oversight of their peers. With HB1436 it is now required to get 5 nominations in writing to run for a spot on the board. This is not an absurdly high threshold but it will at least require some people to make it public that they are running for a spot on the board.
- 3. This bill provides accountability for improper conduct.** As the current law stands, the only way to get a commission member to step down is if they miss three consecutive meetings, become ineligible to serve via their qualifications to hold office, or break the law in the Century Code per section 44 02 01. In HB1436 the bill would provide a way for the citizens to have a recall effort of their elected officials if they feel they are not upholding the standards of the office they are held to.
- 4. This is how all the other commodity checkoff programs conduct business.** Corn, Soybean, Wheat, and Barley board positions are elected, so why can't beef.

This is common sense legislation. We recommend a DO PASS.