

Testimony in Support HB 1436

Hello and Good Morning Chairman Thomas, and members of the House Ag Committee. My name is August Heupel. I am a rancher from Medina along with being the current Vice President of I-BAND. I am testifying today in support of HB 1436.

I am going to touch on just a couple reasons why I believe HB1436 will be a success for North Dakota cattle producers.

1. HB 1436 will provide a voice for producers in the state who don't belong to a organization such as North Dakota Stockmen's Association, I-BAND etc. North Dakota producers would be able to vote on an individual they feel best represents them, or if they are so inclined can run for the seat themselves. A Beef Commission board voted on by actively engaged ranchers who pay into the checkoff is the fairest, purest form of representation.

2. HB 1436 would align the Beef Commission along with the other commodity groups in the state, like the Corn Growers and Soybean Council for example. Each of these commodity groups have elected positions, voted on by producers of each respective commodity. Why should the North Dakota Beef Commission be any different?

The final point I would like to make this morning is on elections in general. Elections are the peoples voice for change. Respectfully, each committee member here this morning was elected to represent their district. This is a basic constitutional right for the people to be heard and represented. How would things look in North Dakota today if we were represented by individuals who were appointed rather than elected? I am certainly glad our state isn't run that way and I don't believe our Beef Commission should be either. Lets give a voice back to the producers.

Thank you Chairman Thomas, and Ag Committee members for taking the time to hear my Testimony this morning.