

Good Morning, Ag house Committee Members and Chairman Thomas.

I am here in favor of HB 1436.

I am a young cattle producer and farmer from South of Mandan in district 31. HB 1436 would give me the opportunity to be fairly represented with an elected official in a job position that promotes my direct business. Having elected individuals would allow all areas of the state, in each district, be fairly represented. Right now where our current beef commissioners reside, there are large gaps of producers who do not have anyone even close to where they live. If we were to go by the new laws districts; 1, 2, 4 would have no one. Having defined districts will also give producers a direct contact who they can share with any promotional ideas for their area. Here are examples current cattle organizations that elect their board based on districts; ND Stockmans, ND Cattlewomen, I-BAND. These organization understand that each area has their own unique ideas that needs to be represented and recognized.

The voting for qualified individuals to the beef commission would not open to the general public. It would be closed to just of those of us who are producers and know cows. We don't need an appointed board because we will KNOW the individuals in our area and who we will want to nominate and vote. We know who can best promote our ND beef in our area.

On the website of the Beef Commission, it states that they are "Funded by Beef Farmers and Ranchers". I believe that those same farmers and rancher should be able to choose who represents them in spending our money. Other boards are designed this way, and we should be no exception. Taxation without representation.

Bailie Graner