

TESTIMONY

Good Morning Chairman Thomas & Ladies & Gentlemen of the House Ag Committee,

My name is Kerry Dockter and I am the past president of IBand and am here in support of HB1436.

I am actually thrilled to be here this morning and see many familiar faces that have been involved in the study of the makeup of the Beef Commission Board since probably the last legislative session and most recently through the meetings and hearings of the interim session.

This bill 1436 addresses many points that were discussed in the interim committee and I personally thank Representative Beltz for recognizing these points and bringing them forward in this bill.

Some of these points are:

1. It creates an election process comparable to the other commodity groups checkoff programs in the state.
2. It allows representation from all segments of the livestock industry throughout the state.
3. It allows producers who pay into the checkoff to be on the Beef Commission Board without having to be a member or have an affiliation with any one organization.
4. The process will develop a more diverse board with different opinions and visions as to how our checkoff dollars may be best used to promote our industry and the superior product we produce in North Dakota.

I thank you for your time. Are there any questions that I may answer?