

Testimony HB1437

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Testimony in Opposition for HB 1437

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 opposition of HB1437 because this is a good example of overreach by a state government. This bill will allow for the state to come into townships and counties and force them to write zoning laws that will harm their communities by not allowing them to have local control over CAFOs and value-added agricultural development.

This bill appears to be a reaction to opposition to projects that occurred at the local level. It is not the state's role to tell local governments how to govern and provide them money in exchange for compliance with a prescriptive set of laws. By passing this law you will be saying that you (the legislature) do not trust townships and counties to make zoning decisions around certain projects. The same governments that govern many of your homes and farmsteads. Economic development historically sides with business and never with the communities that businesses will hurt, which is why it is especially important for townships and counties to have local control and autonomy.

In the realm of animal agriculture I want to remind the members of the committee that North Dakota law prohibits any township from asking a company that comes to their community to regulate their air or water pollution that comes from their business. It prohibits a township from making a company pay for the roads that their farm would damage. It also prohibits getting paid any money from the company in licensing fees that could be used by the community. Animal agriculture can be done responsibly but this law is going to be more asking townships and counties to give up their autonomy for 30 pieces of silver, i mean 12,000 dollars.

We urge you to vote DO NOT PASS.