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**Testimony of
Matt Perdue
North Dakota Farmers Union
Before the
House Agriculture Committee
January 26, 2023**

Chairman Thomas and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1437. My name is Matt Perdue, and I am testifying on behalf of North Dakota Farmers Union's members.

HB 1437 establishes regional livestock planning grants. This opt-in, voluntary program provides grants to regional planning councils or counties for two purposes:

1. To fund rural development site analyses; and
2. To assist townships in reviewing and updating zoning and land use regulations.

The rural development site analysis provides leaders with information and resources to support well-informed decisions regarding economic development opportunities. Specifically, the analysis helps counties identify sites suitable for livestock and other value-added agriculture development. An example of a completed site analysis is attached to my testimony.

The rural development site analysis was completed in roughly 90 percent of South Dakota counties. Currently, two pilots of the analysis are being conducted in Traill and Ransom counties in North Dakota.

The legislation also provides regional planning councils or counties funding to help townships review and update their zoning requirements. This technical assistance provides townships with the resources they need to make well-informed zoning decisions.

The regional livestock planning program would provide regional planning councils or counties with up to \$12,000 per county to complete the rural development site analysis. This amount is equal to the cost of the ongoing pilots in Ransom and Traill counties. HB 1437 also provides \$500 per township to update township zoning requirements.

Finally, it is important to highlight Section 1, paragraph 4 of this bill. This provision ensures that information that identifies individual parcels of land is confidential and not subject to open records requests. The paragraph ensures that individual landowners' privacy is protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. NDFU requests a "Do Pass" recommendation on HB 1437. I will stand for any questions.