

North Dakota Stockmen's Association
Testimony to the House Agriculture Committee on HB 1437
Jan. 26, 2023

Good morning, Chairman Thomas and members of the House Agriculture Committee. My name is Julie Ellingson and I represent the North Dakota Stockmen's Association, a 93-year-old beef cattle trade organization comprised of more than 3,100 cattle-ranching members.

We rise in support of HB 1437, which would develop a regional livestock planning grant program, with the goal to support political subdivisions preparing for and welcoming value-added ag businesses to their communities.

The work meshes nicely with the work our own organization does through its Environmental Services Program, providing cost-share and free and confidential technical assistance for cattle producers seeking to bring new and expanding animal feeding operations into compliance with state and federal water quality rules.

I appreciate the bill sponsor including the confidentiality clause beginning on line 5 of page 2, which had been a request of our organization. It is a critical element of this legislation and helps ensure that the information garnered on parcels in the planning review outlined in this bill doesn't get in the wrong hands or misused for a purpose that could be economically harmful or intrusive or put a livestock operation in harm's way.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.