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Thank you Chairman Thomas and Vice Chair Beltz for the opportunity to testify on HB# 1437. I have spent a lot of time commenting on bills related to the North Dakota Beef Commission because that is something I have studied and have a passion to improve. Perhaps an even biggest issue to livestock producers in North Dakota is the attack on family farm livestock presented in the ND Legislature's bills attempting to gut the ND Anti Corporate Farming Law. The bills supporting the anti corporate bill HB#1371 are HB#1423 and HB#1437.

The main bill is HB#1371 and is supported by Governor Burgum, NDFB and NDSA. This is just another in the constant attacks on the old law that has protected family farmers and ranchers since the 1930s. The bill is being promoted by individuals and groups that have mostly done nothing to support good policy for the family farms and ranches that we have. NOTHING ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

Gov. Burgum proved to me that he is the worst North Dakota governor in my lifetime for using his money to try to buy a legislature that suited him. So much for separation between the executive and legislative branch. The two farm groups expose their growing disconnect with farmers and ranchers.

The people promoting the notion that this mess of bills somehow enhances livestock agriculture in North Dakota are for the most part not livestock producers. I went to high school in Rugby and we had a little bitty hog confinement building about a mile west of town. The whole town stunk. We want a system where some corporate money and a whole bunch of government subsidy and tax breaks will find some broke or sleezy farmer and front him to build a pig farm, dairy or feedlot on the top of some fragile aquifer or way to close to the neighbors. This kind of shallow thinking selfish government is not a help or an answer to helping agriculture or North Dakota.

I say take the green spaces around the N.D. capitol and build a corporate dairy, a corporate feedlot, turkey and chicken barns and some hog barns. If it works there then change the law. We have all heard or read about the football and basketball players buying up Iowa farmland with plans of spreading out all over the U.S.. And we know of Burgum's buddy Bill Gates buying N.D. land surely outside the spirit of ND law if not illegally.

This legislation has more potential to damage what we have rather than enhance it. Why should Farmer's Union and North Dakota citizens have to keep trying to protect the law. We have spoken plenty of times. HB#1437 and the others all need a quick trip to the dumpster.

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