

Hello Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Nicole Johnson. My husband and I live west of Grand Forks in Nelson County, where we are raising our two young boys on the family farm. As 5th generation family farmers and cattle ranchers there are few things more important to us than the integrity of our land and our allegiance to this country.

The events that unfolded most recently in Grand Forks County with Fufeng were an incredible eye opening experience for many different reasons - I would like to highlight just two of those day.

The first, I witnessed firsthand members of our community come together to fight against foreign adversaries taking a foothold in our own backyard. The countless hours committed to fighting our most recent battle is an example of the great lengths and dedication that North Dakotans are willing to go on the ground level to protect this great state, that passion and fortitude thankfully prevailed.

The second takeaway I had, is how quickly and aggressively our foreign adversaries acquire American soil given the chance. Quoting Chuck DeVore VP of National Initiatives of Texas "Buyers from the Peoples Republic of China purchased \$6.1 billion in real estate last year, the most of any foreign buyer. Many of these purchases over the past few years have been of farmland or ranchland near US military bases." Data from the USDA states the China owns over 191,000 acres of US land. Simply put, enough is enough.

For a year and a half, the Fufeng battle dragged on, something that frankly shouldn't have had the opportunity to get started in the first place. Allowing communist countries to do business here and own American soil certainly isn't what we stand for.

At the grassroots level, we spent all too long on the defense, now is our opportunity to build up and solidify the offense. We are looking to you do represent backbone of these citizens - put these protections into law.

No more room for Fufeng-style chaos going forward. I understand in bill 1356 as it currently stands, there's proposal for foreign investment review board, my concern is that it's potentially leaving the door open and keeping things a bit to ambiguous. Not the North Dakotan way. Lock it up. Keep it clean, keep it focused and keep it firm – we are not here to do business with anyone who presents a threat to the American way of life.

North Dakotans are here to work hard, protect our rights, freedoms, and to enjoy the land that our generations before us has fought to give us. All too quickly that can be taken away from us, other countries will be quick to jump at the chance. Not here. Not in North Dakota. I am calling on our North Dakota leaders to be an example to the rest of the nation of what protection and patriotism looks like.

In conclusion, I'd like to quote US Senator, Tom Cotton from Arkansas, "Unknown to most Americans, the CCP has been buying our farms, land and even our homes for decades. Why? So, they can take our food, technology and other resources for themselves... We would never have permitted Russian communists to acquire our land in the last Cold War, and we ought not to permit Chinese communists to do so in this Cold War".

I look forward to seeing a solid bill coming to pass, because in the light of the past fight with Fefung, all eyes are on North Dakota. Now all eyes are on you. Make us proud. Thank you.