

House Agriculture Committee

Written and Oral Testimony in support of Amended HB 1503

Testimony from: Jodi Carlson, Grand Forks, ND

As a resident of Grand Forks, who has fought and been considered nationally, the most vocal citizen opponent of the Fufeng, Communist China, Wet Corn Mill Development for the last year and a half, I believe that this amended bill must be approved in order to protect our local citizens, our state, and our country.

I need each of you to consider what our community has been through over the past months in attempting to fight this project from coming to our city, buying our prime agricultural land, raping us of our natural resources, and being subsidized by our tax dollars as they do it. As citizens we had our 1st Amendment Rights stripped away from us in pursuit of some type of financial or incentivized gain, which we can speculate about, but have yet to understand.

We had essentially 4 people on our city council of 6 as well as our Mayor, who were pushing this project forward, despite what they were told from the citizens, from National Security experts, and from a plethora of both State and Federal Government officials. We know now that these 4 people were willing to put our city, our state and our country at a very high level of national security risk for their own personal gain, or for the few dollars they could claim in economic development.

I can say, without doubt, that this land transaction and this project has been ripe with collusion, fraud, and conflict of interest. These issues are being addressed through other avenues. I will say however; that issues of failure to release records from the Governor's Office as well as violation of the current law under NDCC 47-10.1, which is the current bill we are looking to make changes to, have fallen on deaf ears through our Attorney General's Office. When our Attorney General fails to enforce laws that our ND legislature has put in place, this should cause a great deal of concern in each and every one of us.

This fiasco should have never happened and I pray that it never happens again, anywhere in this country, but certainly never again in this state. This has been a horrific ordeal for many. Please remember that this was 4 local people making a determination on National Security, while belittling and laughing at the citizens who spoke up and refusing to consider the input of those who are directly or indirectly involved with oversight of National Security.

Any land purchase, not just agricultural land, from any of our foreign adversaries must never be allowed, let alone left up to a few people to decide. Rezoning current agricultural land to industrial takes a motion and a second to accomplish. Our state can do better. Our citizens deserve better. Please be the voice to ensure that the citizens of ND receive better.

I stand for questions.