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Testimony of Doug Goehring
North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner
House Agriculture Committee
SB 2027
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Chairman Thomas and members of the Agriculture Committee, I am Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I support Senate Bill 2027, repealing NDCC 4.1-01-11 which is the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Agriculture

The Advisory Committee was created in 2009 by the 61st Legislative Assembly. This Advisory Committee has met only twice, in 2009 and 2010. After these two meetings, the consensus of the Committee was that:

1. A comprehensive definition of “sustainability” would need to be developed and adopted.
2. The sustainability certification program would not be beneficial to most North Dakota producers.
3. Implementing the sustainability certification program and the effective marketing and packaging of products containing that certification would be extremely cost prohibitive.
4. The development and implementation of any related sustainable certification program should be suspended and instead efforts should be better focused on research, education and promotion of sustainable farming and ranching.

The Advisory Committee would provide little value to North Dakota agriculture. Moreover, many North Dakota farmers and ranchers already utilize numerous innovative sustainable agricultural practices.

Chairman Thomas and Committee members, thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 2027. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.