



**Testimony of Dr. Andrea Grondahl
Livestock Industries Director
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
Senate Bill 2100
House Agriculture Committee
JW327C
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Chairman Thomas and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am Dr Andrea Grondahl, Director of the Livestock Industries Division of the Department of Agriculture. I am here today on behalf of Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring in support of Senate Bill 2100, which would require licensure of meat processing businesses.

Currently, the Department only has authority to register meat processing businesses. There is no licensing requirement. However, events in the past two years demonstrated that a registration requirement alone does not adequately protect the public. A registration requirement alone does not provide authority to suspend a meat processing plant from operating if they fail to meet facility safety or sanitation requirements.

This bill will not result in undue burden for meat processors as it only requires them to obtain a one-time license for a nominal fee. It will not impose any new regulations. The sole purpose of meat facility licensure is to protect the public's health and safety by ensuring regulatory compliance by meat processing facilities in the State. A license may be revoked or suspended with due cause only.

Chairman Thomas and committee members, thank you for your consideration of SB 2100. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.