

Testimony submitted to the ND House Agriculture Committee Re: 2371

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Mr. Chairman, Committee Members and Staff:

I firmly support Bill 2371 and suggest that ND Townships should be added to the bill in the same manner as Counties and Municipalities. I have heard that should modifications be made to North Dakota's Corporate farming law, WH Group, the PRC Chinese parent company of Smithfield Foods, is likely to be invited into the State. Richland County is likely to be the focus of that Hog Confined Animal Feeding Operation (Cafo) Development, in facilities that could measure up to 800,000 hogs. Richland County has not enacted county zoning authority, and cities and townships are the sole zoning authorities in Richland County. If townships do not have the ability to deny building and conditional use permits, based on a company that is based in an adversary country, and/or being in continuous compliance with the CFR rules of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US, then 2371 has a large loophole for these types of companies to sneak through. On May 29, 2013, [WH Group](#), then known as Shuanghui Group and sometimes also Shineway Group, the largest meat producer in China, announced the purchase of Smithfield Foods for \$4.72 billion. There are 16 other American subsidiaries including: Eckrich, Farmland Foods, John Morrell, Armour, Premium Standard Farms, Sunnyland, Gwaltney, Farmer John, Cook's ham, Curley's, Margherita, Healthy Ones, Carando, Kretchmar plus 17 European brands. Some Familiar logos are below. The Adversary status of the People's Republic of China (PCR) puts into question whether plans to court this company's production into The Great State of North Dakota is timely. WH Group owns 1/3 of all US Hogs. This has been an incursion into not only the US hog industry but also an incursion into the food Sovereignty of the United States. Local Control will be necessary. Respectfully submitted, Todd Leake

WH group owns Smithfield Foods, it's Familiar subsidiary brands are:

- Smithfield
- [Eckrich](#);
- [Farmland Foods](#) of Kansas City;
- John Morrell;
- Murphy Family Farms of North Carolina;
- Circle Four Farms of Utah; and
- [Premium Standard Farms](#).
- Armour