

Testimony SB2371

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Testimony in Support for HB2371

To the Honorable Chairman and the members of the committee, we submit these remarks on behalf of DRC.

Mr. Chairman,

DRC supports keeping foreign ownership out of agriculture in North Dakota. County and City officials do not have the tools to make informed decisions because they do not have the resources that the state and federal governments have when making these decisions. This bill does not give up local control, and it gives the City and County governments the time they need to check their work by entities that do have the resources and access to intelligence that can help them out.

This bill is ultimately about our state officials being able to do their due diligence to make sure North Dakota does business with trustworthy companies. We noticed a few discrepancies in the bill though, townships with zoning authority can still bypass this law the way it is written, to clear this up we would offer the following amendment:

1. A board of county commissioners, including a board in a home rule county, or township board of supervisors of a township that has availed itself of zoning authority under NDCC 58-03-11, may not procure, authorize, or approve a development agreement, building plan, or proposal relating to county development with an individual or government identified as a foreign adversary under 15 CFR 7.4(a)

Also in Sections 1 and 2 it currently reads as "Committee for Foreign Direct Investment" and we are wondering if you mean the Committee of Foreign Investment in the United States. Which was the agency in charge of investigating the Fufeng deal in Grand Forks.

We recommend a DO PASS as long as it is passed with HB1135 and 1503. Thank you for your time and consideration.