

North Dakota Stockmen's Association

Testimony to the House Agriculture Committee on SB 2373

March 10, 2023

Good morning, Chairman Thomas and members of the House Agriculture Committee. My name is Julie Ellingson and I represent the North Dakota Stockmen's Association, a 93-year-old beef cattle trade organization comprised of more than 3,100 cattle-ranching members.

The North Dakota Stockmen's Association supports SB 2373, which would establish a livestock-friendly county designation program, promote the growth of animal agriculture in our state and recognize those political subdivisions for their efforts to develop, maintain or expand livestock sectors within their jurisdiction.

As you've heard many times this legislative session, North Dakota is home to high-quality genetics, plentiful feedstuffs, hardworking people and a climate conducive for efficient gains and combatting disease, and there is much potential for animal ag in our state. SB 2373 would aid the state in reaching that potential and would preserve the integrity of the designation with a re-evaluation once every four years to assure that it is still warranted.

For these reasons, we ask for your do-pass recommendation on SB 2373.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.