

Testimony for HB 1491

Good Morning Chairman Heinert and Education Committee members,

My name is Jonathon Moser. My wife Hannah and I run Forager Farm. Forager Farm is a local direct marketed vegetable farm in Mandan, ND. For 8 of the 9 years of our farm's vegetable operation, we have participated in Farm to School programs with both Jamestown and Bismarck Public Schools. We see the need and the value of using state funds to support North Dakota working families with school age children through providing financial support for those children to access school nutrition. We firmly believe that well-nourished children learn to the best of their ability. We are in support of HB 1491 with the added amendment: to utilize 25 percent of the proposed funding to support the state's agricultural economy by requiring schools to purchase locally grown and raised food. This would not only supply the schools with the highest quality food our state has to offer but also create economic growth in local food production as well as value-added ag based businesses in North Dakota. It would be an investment into the future of our state and build resiliency into each individual community within North Dakota.

Thank you for your consideration. I kindly ask you to amend and pass HB 1491.

I would be willing to answer any questions remotely.

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