



**Testimony of Greg Amundson
ND Corn Growers Association Board Member, Farmer
In Support of HB 1153**

March 20, 2023

Senator Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee

Thank you for the privilege and the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 1153 pertaining to contract services with the Corn Council. It has been my honor to serve the corn growers of North Dakota as a current board member of the Corn Growers Association.

There are Many things to be proud of in North Dakota and the work the Association does is one of many of those. Throughout the years there have been ups and downs in the corn industry, always making everyone involved in corn production but nothing has compared to what we as Farmers are going to encounter in the near future. Whether that is the Farm Bill or EPA overreach, NDCGA has always been on the forefront fighting for the Farmers in North Dakota that raise corn, regardless of membership.

This bill is unfortunately a necessary step that is needed to ensure that NDCGA stays active and vibrant to be able to confront future issues affecting ND Corn head on. As things are currently, we (as association) have no guarantee of funding that will allow us to function. In the past the two groups, the Association and the Council have worked hand in hand in the ongoing efforts to promote corn. Sadly to say this is no longer the case, and the two organizations are drifting farther and further apart. It has gotten to the point we; the association have been told we are nothing but a burden to the Council. As a farmer, association board member, and someone who currently pays into the checkoff, this is very concerning. I want all parties involved to work together for the betterment of North Dakota Corn as a whole.

The Association has in good faith, tried numerous times to salvage the situation to no avail. As recently has up to this current week, the Association has been trying to come to an agreement and to come to an agreement both parties can work with. To this point we have been stonewalled and the Council has not negotiated in good faith and are unwilling to make things work.

For the many reasons I have highlighted while only scratching the surface and for the continued prosperity of the North Dakota Corn Industry, I urge a yes vote on HB 1153.

Thank You

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