

March 24, 2023

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate Ag Committee,

I am Dwight Enockson and I farm northeast of Washburn, ND

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the committee regarding HB1153 which I **support**.

My interest in this bill stems from my involvement with the ND Corn Growers Association and the ND Corn Utilization Council during the years of 1989 through 2002. During those years I served as an officer in both the Growers Association and the Council including being the state president of the growers association.

Shortly after the ND Corn Growers was organized I was asked to be on the board of directors by Robert Thompson who was the first president of the growers association.

During those early years we came to realize that the Association needed more resources than was coming from membership and industry support and the decision was made to ask the legislature to form the ND Corn Utilization Council. I was personally involved in testifying for the bill to establish the Council and contacting several legislators.

From the very beginning it was intended for the ND Corn Growers and the ND Corn Utilization Council to work together. In order for these organizations to function effectively there needs to be complete coordination between the two groups. **After all, both entities serve the same growers.** During that time we established committees called action teams which included members from both entities as well as other grower members. In order to save on administration costs the staff served both entities. If one were to view the functioning of similar organization is South Dakota and Minnesota you would find them working very closely together.

As a member organization the ND Corn Growers represents the views and needs of the corn growers in North Dakota and is the entity designed for action and administration. The accountability comes through having members and policy meetings where growers can provide their views.

The funding by the ND Corn Council needs to reflect the needs and wants of the North Dakota corn growers which the growers association is able to provide. In order to do so the ND Corn Growers need adequate funding from the Corn Council serve the needs of corn growers and to oversee all programs.

The provisions of this bill will restore the funding needs for the Growers Association.