



March 17, 2023
Committee on Agriculture and Veterans Affairs
North Dakota Legislature

RE: HB 1371 – Relating to authorized livestock farm corporation requirements, initial and annual reporting requirements for authorized livestock farm corporations, and authorized livestock farm limited liability companies – Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO)

Dear Chairperson and Respected Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the 2,000 Audubon members in North Dakota, we oppose HB 1371 and request this testimony be included as a part of the public hearing record.

The National Audubon Society is a conservation organization focused on birds and their conservation and seeks to bring awareness to the condition of our environment and how changes impact birds, natural resources, our economy, and communities. Audubon works with ranchers and private landowners throughout the nation to develop market-based management strategies that benefit birds while sustaining their livelihoods and stewarding the land for agricultural sustainability. In North Dakota, Audubon has partnered with over 80 landowners to support their operations through financial and technical assistance to ensure their financial stability and foster commitment to protect North Dakota's natural heritage for future generations.

We oppose the entry of corporate supported Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) into North Dakota. This bill would weaken protection against outside corporations controlling ND agriculture, putting further pressure on remaining small farmers and ranchers that Audubon closely collaborates with, and threatening the natural resources we all depend on. In addition, accelerating the development of CAFOs without proper protection of water resources and a science-based siting process is dangerous. Ground water pollution is a serious health hazard, to people and animals.

To truly support North Dakota's livestock producers, emphasis needs to be placed on expanding the establishment of local processing facilities. The lack of processing facilities within North Dakota is a consistent limiting factor to production that we hear from our partner producers. It creates financial stress to livestock producers due to the high transportation costs to move their cattle to other states for processing, while also supporting out of state companies for products raised in North Dakota.

We urge you to oppose this bill in support of North Dakota's small farmers and ranchers, who are the best stewards of land and natural resources, as well as protecting the water we all depend on.

Thank you for your consideration,

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