

HB 1371 Senate Testimony Chair, member of the committee, Thank you for listening to my testimony. I urge you to oppose 1371 which would allow corporate money to enter ND in the form of Concentrated Animal Feeding operations. It is a numbers game: once the door is open, there is no way to limit the growth of these CAFOs and their resulting pollution on the landscape. I practiced medicine in Worthington, Minnesota in November 2019 and for the whole month of November, I could not be outside because of the unrelenting, always present stench of pig manure. From the 2017 NASS statistics, there were about 400,000 hogs in Nobles County which has an area of about 700 square miles (211 hogs/square mile); while ND with an area of 70,000 square miles had only 148,000 hogs (2.11 hogs/square mile). Worthington people, after always reminding me that it was the smell of money, told me the odor wasn't the JBS meatpacking plant which caused the unrelenting problem. The plant contributed to the smell only when the wind blew in a certain direction. Rather, the constant stench was from the manure applied to the fields surrounding Worthington. What happens to our air and water as we approach the hog density of Nobles County? 2 CAFOs recently permitted in Sargent County totaling 9600 hogs requires at least 1400 acres but up to 3400 acres for manure applications. Incidentally this CAFO sits on top of the Oakes aquifer, is in the middle of a lot of wetlands, and has moist sand within a foot of the soil surface. An older CAFO with a history of underreporting the number of animals in its facility, may need up to 1/3 of a township for manure spreading. State regulations do not address odors from manure applications. THE DEQ is in no way equipped to handle the waste that will come with the acceleration of CAFOs. The odors bother us and tell us that something is awry but nobody is reporting on the antibiotics and antibiotic resistant bacteria, heavy metals, hormones and excessive nutrient runoff that come with this type of factory farming. The issue of antibiotic resistant infection is a serious problem here and now and I would encourage you to read my testimony of Jan 26 submitted to the House Committee. We all have to live somewhere. Our physical and mental health is best when we have clean water and food and we can breathe the air. Arizona is warm but they are out of water; Florida has water but maybe too much as well as red tide and a monster seaweed patch. I tell my East Coast friends and relatives, fall in ND is incredible- there is nothing like my husband's farm in Dickey County in October where there are few vehicles to interrupt, the cloudless open sky is so blue you can hardly believe something so beautiful exists, the air is crisp and clean except maybe for the scent of apples just picked and the endless strings of geese fly overhead. Worth protecting, I think.