

Senate Agriculture & Veterans Affairs Committee
March 24th, 2023
HB 1371 - Testimony in Opposition

Chair Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture & Veterans Affairs Committee, my name is Whitney Oxendahl, and I am writing in opposition of House Bill 1371.

In 2016, Rolling Green Family Farms received a permit for a 9,000-hog CAFO near Buffalo, ND, and concerned citizens there challenged the permit and were able to stop the CAFO from coming to their area.

They didn't do this to be difficult. They were concerned about the environmental impacts of this large animal operation on their community - to the air, land, and water.

Now this is where I come in. I heard about their concerns and learned that the CAFO, so near to my home in Fargo, could impact me and my family. The potential for manure run-off from the area had the great potential to make its way into the Red River. This is not just a rural issue; it is also an urban issue. It would not impact only those nearby but could have a wide-reaching impact on our region.

If you pass this bill, it invites corporations to establish large animal operations in Cass County where they could pollute the air and our waterways. The massive amount of waste products would not stay isolated near the CAFO, especially because of the topography of our region.

The anti-corporate farming law is popular in North Dakota. I supported it at the ballot box a few years ago and will again if voters are given a voice in this. I like that our farms stay with our North Dakota's family farmers who value our soil, our waterways, and care about the impacts on the region. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.