



Testimony of Brenda Elmer, executive director

North Dakota Corn Growers Association

In SUPPORT of HB 1371

March 23, 2023

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to share our support of House Bill 1371. For the record, my name is Brenda Elmer, and I am the executive director of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association (NDCGA), which is the voice of the more than 13,000 corn growers across the state at the grass roots level for issues that impact corn producers.

Agriculture has an incredible impact on the economy and the lives of North Dakotans. According to NDSU in 2020, agriculture contributed nearly \$31 billion to the economy and more than 110,000 jobs. We believe the future of agriculture in North Dakota is promising. The various bills focused on livestock development this session will only help increase the economic contribution made to North Dakota by agriculture.

HB 1371 will expand opportunities to support and grow agriculture in North Dakota. We have seen the opportunities adding livestock to operations has provided for producers in neighboring states. Promoting and growing the livestock industry in North Dakota is a top priority for NDCGA. Further developing livestock in the state will open opportunities for individual North Dakota producers and will also provide an additional in-state market for the corn we grow in the state. North Dakota annually produces about 400 million bushels of corn with about half dedicated to ethanol production throughout the state. Each bushel of corn processed by North Dakota ethanol plants produces about 15 pounds of livestock feed (dried distillers grains), yielding nearly 1.5 million total tons of livestock feed, including dry distillers grains, a high-protein feed sought after by livestock producers. Increasing the livestock in North Dakota would expand the currently small in state market for dry distillers grains, increasing opportunities for corn producers across the state.