

TESTIMONY OF

Karl Rockeman, Director of Water Quality

Good morning, Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs committee. My name is Karl Rockeman, and I am the director of the Division of Water Quality within the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality. The Division of Water Quality protects and monitors our water resources to ensure the quality of surface and groundwater for public use. I am here to provide neutral testimony on HB 1423.

The DEQ is responsible for issuing environmental permits to Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) under state and federal statutes and also facilitated the workgroup that drafted the current model zoning ordinance. The Department appreciates the work on the House side to address the previous concerns, resulting in the bill you have in front of you. I am available to answer any questions on our approval process or AFO's in general.

I have electronically submitted a copy of the current model zoning ordinance and the history of its development for your reference, and as an example of the expected product from the Model Zoning Review Task Force referenced in section 4.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, this concludes my testimony. The Department has no objections to HB 1423, and I would be happy to answer any questions.