

Support of HB 1423

Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee

March 23, 2023

Good morning, Chairman Luick and Committee members.

I am Larry Syverson from Mayville, I grow soybeans on my farm in Traill County , I am the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Roseville Township in Traill County, and I am also the Executive Secretary of the North Dakota Township Officers Association. NDTOA represents nearly 6,000 Township Officers that serve in more than 1,100 dues paying member townships.

NDTOA supports animal agriculture. There is another bill, HB 1437 which we fully support, it establishes regional livestock planning grants. That program would identify areas in the state where feeding operations would be welcome. It would also aid the local subdivisions that chose to participate in updating their animal feeding ordinances.

Section 4 of HB 1423 would get the model zoning ordinance brought up to date, it was last revised in 2000 and is no longer in compliance with statute. This update is necessary so the local subdivisions can know just what the rules are. The local boards now are like those that enacted the earlier ordinances, they are mostly farmers. They don't like doing things like going through the process of updating the ordinance with all the meeting requirements, and such, then facing the prospect of soon doing it all over again because someone changed the rules.

We support Section 4 of HB 1423 which along with HB 1437 would help animal agriculture develop without causing so much public concern.

The other sections of HB 1423 give us concerns about further loss of local control.

Chairman Luick and Committee members, the membership of the North Dakota Township Officers Association appreciate your efforts as you consider HB 1423.

Thank you. I will try to answer any questions you may have.