

To: Senate Agriculture and Veteran Affairs Committee

From: Concerned Citizens of Edmore, ND (District 15)

RE: SB 2273

January 26th, 2023

Chairman Luick and the Senate Agriculture and Veteran Affairs Committee, we take time to write to you in support of Senate Bill 2273 pertaining to the food deserts across ND. We are fortunate to currently have a grocery store in Edmore, our town of 139 people, however that store's future is in jeopardy. We fear our small store is not a viable option for future generations as it functions today. We have learned of a cooperative that has developed which has increased profits for small rural stores or has placed unmanned locker systems in store-less communities, thus continuing to provide necessary food for those areas.

We are lucky to have a very involved community club, volunteer fire department and ambulance, and other activities surrounding our great town, but without something as simple as a grocery store our city will begin to dissipate. We ask that you help combat the food desert crisis facing rural North Dakota and urge a "Do pass" vote from this committee.

Bethany Ivesdal and Jordon Kuchar

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