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**Testimony of  
Matt Perdue  
North Dakota Farmers Union  
Before the  
Senate Education Committee  
March 15, 2023**

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Chairman Elkin and members of the committee

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill No. 1491. My name is Matt Perdue, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of North Dakota Farmers Union's (NDFU) members.

NDFU supports HB 1491, which would ensure all public school students at or below 200% of the federal poverty line can access free school meals. NDFU's member-driven Policy & Action states "we support free school breakfasts and lunch for every child." Our members are proud of their work to provide food, fiber and fuel for our country and world. We feel a strong obligation to connect the food we produce to hungry people, especially those in our own communities. HB 1491 is an important step toward meeting that obligation.

We respectfully request a "Do Pass" recommendation on HB 1491. Thank you.