

Testimony HB1135

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Testimony in Support for HB1135

To the Honorable Chairman and the members of the Committee, we submit these remarks on behalf of DRC.

Mr. Chairman,

We at DRC favor local control and support keeping foreign ownership out of agriculture in North Dakota. But we would also like to ensure that we take this a step further and make sure that value added agriculture is considered when writing these bills. After reviewing this with HB1503 and SB2371 we believe that these bills should be passed together in order to ensure the most protection for our local farmers and grain elevators.

You'll probably hear enough about the dangers of foreign adversaries from other testimony. We share many of their concerns and much like out of state corporate interests, foreign governments do not have our best interests in mind and will often serve their own agenda. The dangers of a foreign government controlling our water rights and resources for their operations is a real concern to our organization and our members. If we give them away to other countries, they will not willingly give them back to us.

There are a few discrepancies on this bill, if you look on page 2 line 23 section d. We noticed that the exemption for agricultural land holding does not exceed 640 acres. In page 4 line 10 section b. The law states that acquisition of land that is located by a foreign business that is not more than three hundred and twenty acres. This bill seems to contradict itself. Ultimately we as an organization would like no exemptions under any acreage but if it's being lowered from 640 to 320 we can accept it as a reasonable compromise.

We recommend a DO PASS as long as it is passed with HB1503 and 2371. Thank you for your time and consideration.