

Testimony HB1503

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Testimony in Support for HB1503

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. After reviewing the amendments to the bill along with HB1135 and 2371 we believe that these bills should be passed together in order to ensure the most protection for our local farmers and grain elevators.

We applaud this much needed deep dive into our businesses. Opponents may try to scare you with cost, or staff needs, or loss of business opportunity in our state. But we would argue this bill would give us the freedom to set up businesses owned by North Dakotans. We would also ask why do we want to undermine national security? Why do we want to potentially invest in companies that have blood on their hands with human rights violations?

This bill is ultimately about our state officials being able to do their due diligence to make sure North Dakota does business with trustworthy companies.

We recommend a DO PASS as long as it is passed with HB1135 and 2371. If the language of this bill is being considered to be combined with 2371 we also could find this bill favorable. Thank you for your time and consideration.