



**Testimony of Todd Erickson
Meat Inspection Manager
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
House Bill 1085
House Agriculture Committee
J-Wing room 327C
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Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am Todd Erickson Meat Inspection Manager for the Department of Agriculture. I am here today on behalf of Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring in support of House Bill 1085, which would adopt the most current federal meat inspection regulations.

The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) allows states to operate their own meat inspection program, provided the State develops and maintains laws, regulations, and procedures that are “at least equal to” the federal program operated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The most effective way to meet “equal to” regulation requirements is to adopt the most recent version of federal regulations related to meat inspection. Since adoption last session an appeal process was added for facilities adversely affected by an action or decision of an inspector or other USDA employee. The facility has 30 days to appeal the decision, NDMPIP will adhere to the same policy as written. There were also updates to some poultry sampling parameters, NDMPIP currently does not have any official poultry facilities. We are here today to update the statute to the most current federal regulations through House Bill 1085.

Chairman Beltz and committee members, thank you for your consideration of HB 1085. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.