

Denise Rohweder

### **Testimony Opposing North Dakota House Bill 1131**

Good Morning Chairman and all Members of the House Ag Committee,

The Milk Producers Association of North Dakota strongly supports providing consumers access to a full range of dairy products, including raw milk and raw milk products. However, we cannot support House Bill 1131 in its current form due to the complete lack of regulation.

While we understand the challenges involved in regulating raw milk and raw milk products, the absence of regulation is not an acceptable solution. Both dairy consumers and producers deserve a framework that ensures safety, transparency, and accountability. A direct-to-consumer model has significant potential in North Dakota, but its success depends on the establishment of thoughtful and practical regulations to protect all parties involved.

At a minimum, we believe the following safeguards are essential:

1. **Farm Registration** – To ensure traceability and accountability.
2. **Product Labeling** – To provide clear and accurate information for consumers.
3. **Farm Access for Inspections** – To allow the Agriculture and Health Departments to respond effectively in the event of a disease outbreak.

Without these basic measures, the risks to public health and the reputation of our dairy industry are too great. For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to vote **“Do Not Pass”** on HB 1131 in its current version.

Thank you for considering the future livelihood of North Dakota’s dairy producers and the safety of North Dakota’s consumers. Together, we can create a system that supports both innovation and safety in our industry.