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**Testimony of
Matt Perdue
North Dakota Farmers Union
Before the
House Agriculture Committee
January 16, 2025**

Chairman Beltz and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1143. My name is Matt Perdue, and I am testifying on behalf of North Dakota Farmers Union's members. NDFU supports HB 1143.

HB 1143 provides \$10 million to match private and non-state contributions for the construction of food distribution facility. Our members are proud of their work to provide food, fiber and fuel for our country. We also feel an obligation "to support our neighbors who are hungry, many of whom are in rural communities as well as urban."

The Great Plains Food Bank is the only food bank in North Dakota. Eight-eight percent of all the food that passes through our state's charitable food network is sourced or purchased by Great Plains Food Bank. They support every community in the state, from Grafton to Golva. NDFU is a strong supporter of Great Plains Food Bank and has partnered with them through food and financial contributions and to provide locally-sourced foods to communities.

Supporting a new food distribution facility will provide the Great Plains Food Bank to increase the amount of food distributed throughout the state. This will allow them to serve more people and more communities.

We encourage a "Do Pass" recommendation on HB 1143. We look forward to collaborating with you and the Great Plains Food Bank to address food insecurity in our state. I will stand for any questions.