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

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Chairman Beltz and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1151. My name is Ryan Gregg, and I am speaking on behalf of the North Dakota Farmers Union (NDFU). We support HB 1151, which would ban the manufacturing and sale of cell-cultured protein in North Dakota.

Our members are generally skeptical of animal cell culture technology. Our member-driven Policy & Action clearly states that any products developed using animal cell culture technology should not be labeled as “meat,” “beef,” “poultry,” or “seafood.” Unfortunately, in June 2023, USDA approved the label “cell-cultivated chicken” for two companies.<sup>1</sup> Considering inadequate federal labeling standards, we recognize an outright ban on cell-cultured protein may be an appropriate step for our state.

However, we encourage the committee to retain Section 4.1-31-05.1. We think it is important to note that there are ongoing court cases challenging the constitutionality of other states’ cell-cultured protein bans<sup>2</sup>. Recognizing the threat of litigation regarding the proposed language, we believe it is essential to preserve strong labeling requirements and retain Section 4.1-31-05.1.

We respectfully request the committee amend HB 1151 by striking Section 2. If the change is adopted, we support a “Do Pass” recommendation on HB 1151. Thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> Sheldon, M. (2023, July 11). *Lab-Grown Chicken Approved for Sale in U.S.* Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center. Retrieved from <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/food-policy-snapshot-lab-grown-chicken-approved-for-sale-united-states/#:~:text=The%20Label%20Approval%20and%20Grant.friendly%20than%20traditional%20meat%20production..>

<sup>2</sup> PAYNE, K. (2024, August 13). “Lab-grown” meat maker files lawsuit against Florida ban. AP News. <https://apnews.com/article/florida-lab-grown-meat-ban-lawsuit-93c9017f02e29be390024a6afde41422>

