House Ag Committee,

I stand in strong support of HB 1207. I raise cattle in the southwestern part of the state. My entire income is derived from cattle and sheep.

Ranchers deserve the ability to choose the individuals who represent us on the ND Beef Commission Board. They are handling a budget of well over a million dollars which comes directly from the pockets of North Dakota cattle owners. Every time we sell a beef animal, we pay the federal checkoff and the state checkoff. I personally contribute around $1,000 per year in checkoff dollars. The Beef Commission members are charged with managing that money responsibly.

There are a wide range of options these checkoff dollars can be spent on, and as a contributor to the checkoff, I believe it is my right to vote on a representative to manage this budget in a way that best benefits the cattle industry. This is no different than voting on legislators to oversee our tax dollars.

Improving transparency and allowing for more local control is ALWAYS a step in the right direction when it comes to government.

Please contact me with any questions.

Jeremy Stadheim
Reeder, ND
701-853-2384