Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1207

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Chairman Beltz, and Members of the House Agriculture Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1207, which proposes a change to how the North Dakota Beef Commission (NDBC) board is filled. I am writing to strongly oppose this bill, as it would remove dairy representation from the NDBC board, and I believe this would harm both the dairy and beef industries in our state.

As a dairy producer, I want to emphasize the critical role that dairy cattle play in the U.S. beef industry. Dairy producers contribute approximately 26% of the beef produced in the U.S., including finished dairy steers, cull dairy cows, and the growing market for beef-on-dairy crossbreeding. Without dairy's significant contributions, the beef industry would not be able to meet the growing consumer demand that is currently at record-high levels.

Currently, dairy producers are represented on the NDBC board, which ensures that our contributions to the beef industry are recognized and supported in decisions that affect both sectors. This legislation will restructure the process for seating members on the N.D. Beef Commission and remove dairy representation from the NDBC board.
Dairy producers are vital to the success of the beef market, and could undermine the collaborative efforts that have allowed both industries to thrive together.

I urge you to vote down House Bill 1207. Dairy producers are vital to the success and growth of the beef industry, and we deserve to have a voice on the NDBC board. I respectfully ask that you maintain dairy representation on the board to ensure that our interests are properly considered and supported.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.
Sincerely,

Alan Qual
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