

Chairman Beltz and members of the House Ag Committee,

My name is August Heupel, and I am a cattle rancher from Medina, North Dakota and the current Vice President of I-BAND. I am submitting testimony IN SUPPORT of HB 1207 and urge a DO PASS recommendation.

Quite simply, having a voting process in place for cattle producers to use their voice to vote on their representation on the Beef Commission is the right thing to do. It is transparent, fair and simply put, AMERICAN. No matter if a producer is affiliated with an organization or not, they will be able to exercise their right to vote for whom they feel best can represent them on the commission.

Just as we select our representation in our own legislative districts, I too, come to you being an elected representative serving on the I-BAND board. I understand that this is the best and most transparent way to represent those you serve in respective districts.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to giving in person testimony at hearing as well.

August Heupel

VP I-BAND