

Testimony in opposition to H 1207

Chairman Beltz

Representatives of the House Agriculture Committee

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I appreciate and respect the effort that is required to examine the issues that are brought before you.

The change in this bill would attempt to fix something that is not broken. It would become a very expensive and cumbersome way of selecting members of the Beef Commission.

This bill would eliminate the dairy producers, the beef feeders and the beef marketers from having a seat on the commission, all three are important sectors of our state's beef industry.

The Beef Commission is a vital tool that enhances the value of our state's beef industry.

This bill would weaken the effectiveness of the Commission and could result in less funding going towards the research, education and promotion of our state's beef products.

A do not pass on this bill would keep the NDBC functioning at the successful pace that it is now. Changing the structure of the board and board selection would be a delay in the work that the NDBC is doing. It would mean time and dollars spent that would be better used to do the work of the Commission.

When the NDBC participates in the National Programs our state's producers are reaching consumers in large urban centers with education on beef research, on promotion of the beef products and telling the story of our state's ranchers and farmers. No one should tell that story but the producers themselves.

Any changes to the structure of the NDBC would weaken our ranchers' impact on increasing demand for beef.

Thank you very much,

Kenton Holle

3rd Generation Dairy Farmer