

As North Dakota beef producers, we, Doug and Judy Johnson, of Sentinel Butte, North Dakota, are testifying in support of House Bill 1207.

We feel that the cattle industry in North Dakota should have the power to elect their own commission members as do other ag commissions in the state. This would enable a fairer representation of North Dakota cattle industry representatives. Beef producers, feeders, dairy producers, and livestock marketing representatives only would make up the North Dakota Beef Commission. They would be elected by those cattle industry representatives in each district created by the bill, not appointed.

The bill would spell out who is eligible to take part in commission elections and referendums. The election of commission members and Beef Checkoff process and fundings will be transparent to all. We feel that the North Dakota Beef Commission should be all cattle industry representatives not just the needs and opinions of a few people or special interest groups.

With the passing of HB 1207, the North Dakota Beef Commission will be held accountable for their decisions. We have felt like our opinions and needs are not heard by the Beef Commission or our legislators. We feel they are pushed aside if they don't align with those few in the state's cattle industry who seem to hold the power to make decisions for all of us.

We, Doug and Judy Johnson, ask for your support in passing HB 1207 so all of us in the state cattle industry have a say and can count on transparency and accountability.

Thank you.