Good Morning Chairman Beltz and House Ag Committee,

My name is Jeff Schafer and my family and I are fifth generation beef producers from New Rockford.

I've heard transparency several times this morning. Let's look at the other side of transparency. Who likes losing much less in a public setting? You are all here because you won an election. Congratulations! The question becomes would you run again if you were defeated in a public setting? We all like to win, unfortunately someone has to lose in an election. Elections can be expensive and often times not very friendly. It takes a special person to accept defeat and be willing to run again.

The current process of selecting beef commission directors one wouldn't know if you weren't selected unless you personally told someone or were nominated by an organization. It would not be public, making it much easier to run again if so desired. I've seen first hand other elections for councils and I don't believe that the process itself always brings forth the best candidate. Often times they struggle to get people to run. Case in point, our local county held elections yesterday for three councils. Not one person showed up! Not one. With the current process in place for directors for the beef commission there has always been names to pick from.

This bill is truly an unnecessary bill with several challenges within it,

1) Cannot self nominate
2) 18 to vote, I feel safe to say the majority of beef producers in this room were fully engaged in the beef industry prior to being 18.
3) One vote per operation? We are a three generation operation. This example and my previous would ultimately silence voices. Is that what we want? Isn't that a reason given for this bill?
4) To serve on a council and be an effective member an individual must believe in the mission and purpose of the council. Therefore I believe they should be participating and paying their fair share.

I stand in opposition of 1207 as it's an unnecessary bill with several challenges within the least of which for mentioned.

Thank you and I stand for any questions.