



North Dakota House of Representatives

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Good morning, Chairman Beltz and members of the Agriculture Committee. For the record, my name is Dawson Holle, and I'm honored to represent the people of District 31. Today, I stand before you to introduce HB1429, which addresses the issue of drones flying over animal feeding operations and farms. Let's begin with a hypothetical scenario: imagine a dairy farm. One day, a drone pilot decides to capture video footage of the dairy farm without asking the owner for permission, thinking it won't harm anyone. As the pilot flies the drone, the unpredictable North Dakota wind causes them to lose control. The drone performs a dive-bomb motion and crashes into a dairy pen with cows. It lands on a cow, injuring it severely by slicing it open. Now, if you're the farmer, you must pay for a veterinarian, and the drone owner has to trespass onto your property to retrieve their drone.

This scenario, unfortunately, isn't entirely hypothetical. A similar incident has actually happened, involving an animal rights activist who intended to film a dairy farm—not to provide informative content, but to portray the farm negatively in hopes of shutting it down. This fear is becoming increasingly prevalent among animal agriculture operations, and I've heard these concerns directly from farmers. Additionally, drones create a loud buzzing noise that can frighten cows, causing them to panic, break through fences, or slip and injure themselves, such as breaking a leg.

Now, let me clarify a few points about this bill:

1. **This bill will not deter businesses from operating in the state.** Why? Because businesses or individuals who obtain the farmer's permission can proceed with their activities. Without permission, they must stay away.
2. **The distinction between drone surveillance and drone intrusion:** Drone surveillance refers to scanning an area from above, while drone intrusion involves actively entering private property or flying in restricted areas, such as metal buildings, which can interfere with drone signals.
3. **This bill is not about regulating aerospace; it's about protecting private property rights**—a fundamental concern for us as farmers.
4. **First responders will still have full access to use drones** in emergencies, as this bill explicitly allows for such exceptions.

In essence, this bill seeks to establish guardrails for responsible drone operation. It does not prohibit drone use but ensures drones are not used to spy on or harm others.

Thank you for your time. I'll now stand for questions.

Below I have a news article just three weeks ago a 7 year old was struck by a drone after a drone parade went haywire it was so hard it stopped his heart.

<https://www.live5news.com/2024/12/23/child-seriously-injured-after-drones-plummeted-sky-during-holiday-light-show/>