



HOUSE BILL NO. 1453
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
MIKE BELTZ, CHAIR
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1453

Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture Committee. I am Parrell Grossman, and it is my privilege to be the Legislative Director for the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association. I appear on behalf of the Association in opposition to House Bill 1453.

The Association advocates for more than 8,900 operations that raise soybeans in North Dakota. In 2024, North Dakota farmers planted 6.6 million acres of soybeans, producing over 245 million bushels of soybeans.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, Vice Chairwoman Hauck and the other sponsors certainly have very good intentions with this proposed legislation. Nonetheless, the Association cannot support this Bill. First, we note the Bill does not actually define the term “natural assets.” In section 1, it defines a “natural asset company” and not a “natural asset.” It might be presumed to be land or resources, or the rights to both, although it is not so identified. There is some concern the definition could mean nearly anything on a farmer’s land.

Ultimately, we share the stated concerns about prohibition on natural asset ownership and its potential negative impact on the programs of North Dakota Agricultural Mitigation, as well as any inadvertent prohibition on any other wetland mitigation efforts by farmers, ranchers, and landowners.

Additionally, there have been other stated concerns that this legislation could hinder the options farmers and ranchers have for managing or using their land, including necessary mitigation measures or tools.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for these reasons, the Association respectfully asks the House Agriculture Committee to give House Bill 1453 a “Do Not Pass” recommendation.

Thank you for and I will stand for any questions.