



Testimony on HB 1453
House Agriculture
February 6, 2025

Chairman Beltz and members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Drew Courtney. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association (NDCGA). NDCGA is one of six agricultural organizations that have worked together to develop North Dakota Agricultural Mitigation, or NDAM. I serve as Vice President of the NDAM Board of Directors.

NDAM is a nonprofit organization with the mission of developing wetland mitigation banking alternatives for farmers facing Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) wetland compliance challenges. NDAM has established Ag Wetland Trade, a program where landowners who have voluntarily established wetlands can sell those acres to individuals who are looking to mitigate impacts to wetlands at other locations. Ag Wetland Trade benefits both conservation and production agriculture.

NDCGA is concerned that HB 1453 would prohibit NDAM from operating in the state, removing a vital tool for producers looking to fully utilize their land while also mitigating any impacts to wetlands and wildlife.

As such, NDCGA opposes HB 1453 as written. Thank you for your consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions.