

Testimony HB1555

Sam Wagner  
Ag and Food Field Organizer  
Dakota Resource Council  
1902 E Divide Ave  
Bismarck ND 58501  
Testimony in Support for HB1555

To the House Agriculture Committee,

Mr Chairman,

We at the Dakota Resource Council have been fighting against foreign interests, multinational corporate interests and outside trusts owning farmland in North Dakota. We would definitely encourage any transparency bills that make sure that the general public understands how much foreign land is being owned in our state at any given time. However looking at this bill there are some issues of clarification that may need to be addressed

**Under this bill it would mean any foreigner, it might be a little broad to be consistent with other laws written in the previous session and currently on the books.**

Under Current North Dakota law we had a package of bills written in the 2023 session that defined foreigners as being from countries that are hostile to the United States. Cuba, North Korea, Iran, Russia, China, Venezuela. We would think that in this case you might want to look at subdividing land in reports to determine which people from other countries hold the land. Canadian holdings of land that are allowed under the current law in North Dakota likely pose the least amount of threat, but keeping an eye on land owned by multinational corporate interests from other nations may be more pressing, and finally if there are ties to hostile countries owning land in our state, these would be most important to monitor.

In our opinion our biggest concern is when outside interests have control of our mineral rights and water rights. We've seen incidents in Arizona and California where companies such as Nestle come in to purchase land and water rights and then being given full access to water during times of droughts because they are contractually obligated to do so at the expense of the people living there. We do not want to give access to our natural resources to people that do not have our best interests at heart.

We believe that understanding who owns our land in North Dakota will be a good step in a transparent government for our state.

Thank you for your consideration and we urge a DO PASS