Testimony SB2087

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Neutral Testimony for SB2087

To the Honorable Chairman and the members of the committee, we submit these remarks on behalf of DRC.

Mr Chairman,

We feel that as this bill is written it will be sufficient if passed with the change of the word animal being changed to premises. However we would like to bring up an issue about consolidation of power of the Stockman's Association and a possible solution.

The North Dakota Stockmen's Association should not be the only administrator or be the only one's privy to this information.We feel that giving one non governmental entity too much power blurs the line between state and private interests The deletion of an authorized administrator should be reconsidered to ensure that government oversight is maintained. As stated in a previous hearing there was no definition of authorized individual. We would like to suggest the following people have access provided they request access to the ag commissioner and he grants it in writing.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 4.1-72-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows: 1. Except as provided in subsection 2, any information created, collected, or maintained by the state veterinarian or the North Dakota stockmen's association, or an authorized administrator with written permission from the agriculture commissioner, with respect to the administration of any federally sponsored program pertaining to livestock as permitted by section 4.1-72-05 is confidential and not subject to the open records requirements of section 44-04-18.

Authorized Administrator Definitions

Grain & Livestock Licensing Division Director

State Veterinarian and Animal Health Division Director

Livestock Industries Division Director

Business, Marketing & Information Division Director

Legal Counsel / Policy Advisor

Assistant to the Commissioner

Deputy Commissioner