RE: HB1553

Dear members of the 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of North Dakota,

I am a resident of Fargo, ND. Please, accept the below as my testimony IN FAVOR of HB1553, relating to the provision of free meals to school students to be paid from legacy earning funds.

I have a hard time even starting to express why this is important and why the time is so right for it. These are our kids and that means they are our future and the future of this country, economically and with every other respect. Aside from the fact that nobody should go hungry because we are all human beings, nobody can learn and concentrate when they are hungry. It is unfortunate that so many of the citizens in our state do not have the resources to take care of their own kids in this way. For many students, the school lunch may be the only meal they can get during the day and I am perfectly happy to use our state resources to help out.

For our kids.

I support HB1553 and recommend a PASS vote.

As in all my testimonies, I much appreciate the hard work and dedication that each member of my state legislative assembly puts into our state. Thank you.

Sincerely and respectfully Birgit Pruess, Ph.D. Biology