

**Testimony of Robert Thornberg in support of HB 1524  
To the House Finance and Taxation Committee  
February 4, 2025**

Rep. Craig Headland and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee:

I'm Robert Thornberg from Walhalla, ND stating my strong and enthusiastic support for HB 1524 relating to funding and organizational efforts of North Dakota's Regional Councils.

Our group is the Red River Regional Council in Grafton. Our support for the wider statewide efforts is based on our experiences with the Grafton group. Those experiences have been simply outstanding! They were important in our early years, just getting started, and again later as difficult market conditions called for new solutions.

There has been direct support, and equally important has been the indirect support that comes as encouragement when times are tough. Times have been tough, now and again, so the encouragement is not just welcomed – it's needed. We are so grateful and as such, strongly support efforts that help provide similar services across the state.

We are in Walhalla because there was an ethanol plant with distillers feeds essential to our SweetPro Feeds<sup>®</sup> product line. While that ethanol plant is no longer here – we still are. Among the most recent adjustments needed to adapt to the ethanol plant absence has been installing capacity to process flax seed. Prior to that was an opportunity to convert portions of the ethanol plant to production of a new yeast culture we call ProBiotin<sup>®</sup>. That project continues to evolve and we believe now stands ready to make a significant statement improving gut health in livestock.

Our Red River Regional Council and Choice Bank have been active in the flax, yeast culture, and other efforts to help us adapt.

Again, we enthusiastically support the objectives of HB 1524 and applaud the efforts of Representative Monson, Senator Myrdahl and others working to strengthen Regional Council efforts statewide.

Robert R. Thornberg – CEO



Harvest Fuel Inc. ( dba SweetPro Feeds )

[bob@sweetpro.com](mailto:bob@sweetpro.com)

Cell: 701 265 2727