

Mr. Chair, members of the senate agriculture committee, my name is Ben Fischbach, I am the registered lobbyist for the Independent Beef Association of North Dakota. I rise today in support of Senate Bill 2148.

Senate Bill 2148 ensures the proceeds from estray sales are properly tracked and reported. By centralizing these funds in the Unclaimed Property Division of the North Dakota Trust Lands, the state will have a clearer and more consistent system for managing unclaimed proceeds from these sales. This helps minimize the risk of funds being misallocated or lost due to being outside the public view.

Why should cattle be treated differently than any other lost or unclaimed property? The Unclaimed Property Division of the North Dakota Trust Lands is already tasked with managing unclaimed property, as it has the necessary infrastructure, systems, and expertise to handle estray sales proceeds in a uniform and efficient manner. Redirecting these funds to the division will reduce the complexity of the system and provide a more transparent and consistent process for managing such funds. This also reduces the potential for disputes and confusion, while providing clarity for livestock owners.

In conclusion, Senate bill 2148 represents a necessary, common sense update to the management of estray sales proceeds. By transferring the remaining funds to the Unclaimed Property Division of the North Dakota Trust Lands, we are ensuring greater transparency, fairness, and efficiency in the way these funds are handled. This change will benefit livestock owners, property

claimants, and the state of North Dakota as a whole. Please vote Do Pass on Senate Bill 2148.

Thank you.