

Greetings Mr./Madam Chair, members of the Committee, I'm Kathrin Volochenko of the Nonpartisan League.

As a former beef cattle producer, I do support and ask that this committee recommend a **"Do Pass"** for Senate Bill 2202 to make some needed changes to the structure of the North Dakota Beef Commission, and to improve the efficiency and accessibility/representation of all of its members.

In doing so, the beef "check-off" dollars that all North Dakota beef producers have been contributing for so many years will have more transparency and input from beef producers in how they are allocated.

This is directly from the ND Beef Commission website;

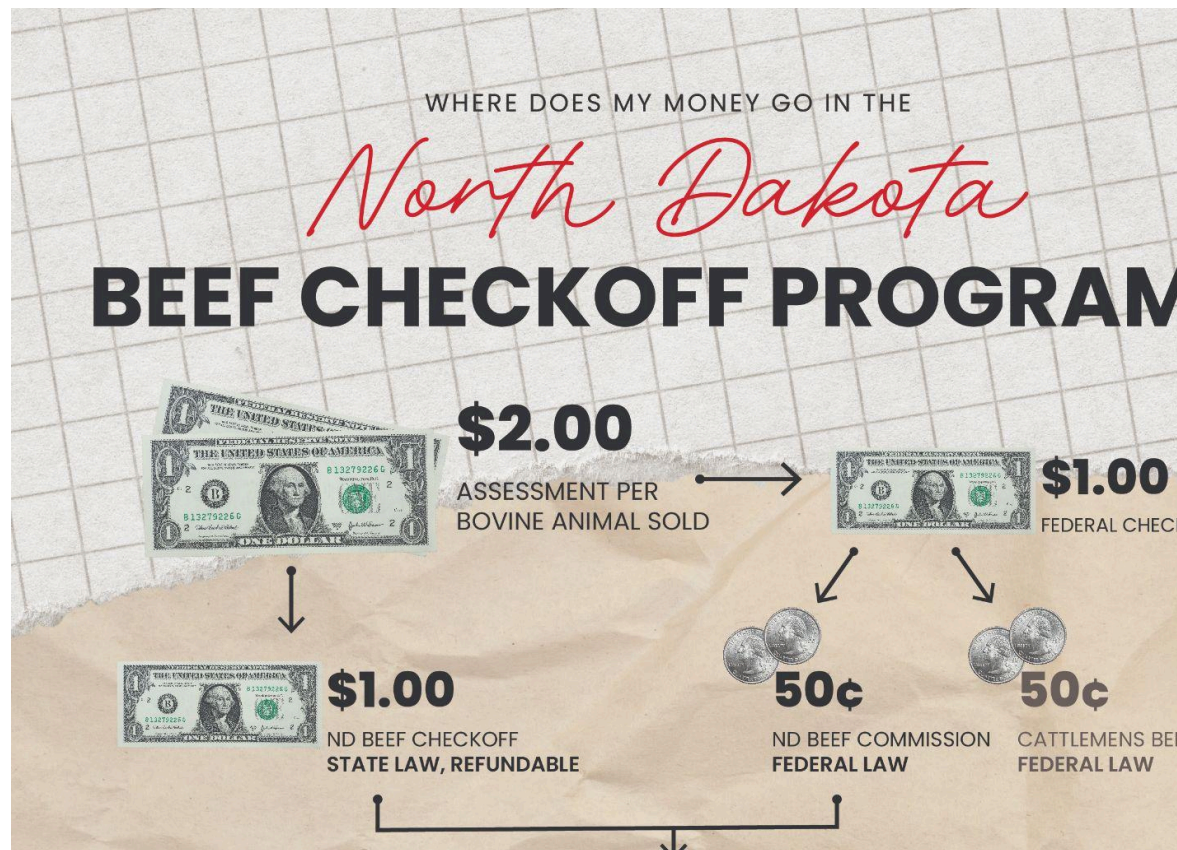
"Collected funds are used for beef promotion, marketing, research and consumer education. The overall goal of the Beef Checkoff is to drive the overall demand for beef for every kind of producer. The money can be used in state, domestically and/or internationally, this is decided by our grassroots board of directors.

*The federal act and order **does not allow** national checkoff funds to be used for the purpose of influencing governmental action or policy."*

At least now if this bill is passed, every beef producer will be able to have a direct influence in how these dollars are spent.

Below is an image from the beef commission website showing in very rough terms how the check-off dollars are spent. There doesn't seem to be very much detail.

In closing, I commend the efforts of Senators Schaible, Boehm, Magrum and



Representatives Hauck, Nelson for sponsoring a much needed bill to in a sense “update” and improve the North Dakota Beef Commission for all concerned.

Thanks for your time and attention.