

Chairman Luick and Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Livestock producers across North Dakota deserve the right to elect their representatives from every corner of the state, ensuring fair and equitable representation. Unfortunately, the current system allows the beef checkoff and the NDSA to handpick members of the beef commission, making it the only checkoff group in the state operating without input from all producers.

I strongly encourage you to vote in favor of **SB 2202**, a much-needed reform that would establish equal representation by placing livestock producers from balanced districts across the state on the beef commission.

Additionally, it is concerning that North Dakota is one of the few states where a \$2 per animal checkoff fee was quietly enacted without a vote from producers. This lack of transparency underscores the urgent need for change to restore trust, fairness, and accountability for the hardworking producers of our state.

Thank you for your time,

Kurt Hart

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Chasely, ND