

Bailie Graner

bailiegraner@gmail.com

Testimony for SB 2202

Good Morning Chairman and Ag Committee members,

My name is Bailie Graner and I am a rancher south of Mandan. I am in favor of passing SB 2202. You will hear from the opposing that we already have a fair process and that anyone can apply to be appointed. I had applied to the Beef Commission and was endorsed by North Dakota Farmers Union, who has over 60,000 members, and the North Dakota Independent Beef Association. Even with these two large endorsements, my references were never contacted to verify my credentials, nor was I ever contacted personally regarding my qualifications or interviewed. My question is what does it mean to be fair?

The other question I have, is that with this current appointment process, how are people being notified of the open position currently? Why can we not use that same notification process that is being used in the appointing of a seat be the same in the event of an election? Either the ranchers are not being notified of the open position, OR the funding gap of an election is not as large as perceived.

This is our money and we would move to have the representation of our choosing. The democratic process is part of EVERY other commodity and we should be no different. We have other states whose Beef Commission have an election process as well. Again, SB 2202 should be passed so anyone in the cattle industry can promote our product. Thank you for your time and consideration!