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Testimony
of
Ryan
Gregg
North Dakota Farmers Union
Before the
Senate Agriculture & Veteran
Affairs Committee
February 6, 2025

Chairman Luick and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2228. My name is Ryan Gregg, and I am testifying on behalf of the members of the North Dakota Farmers Union (NDFU).

NDFU supports SB 2228, which appropriates \$1 million to the Department of Commerce for grants designed to preserve rural grocery stores and expand food access in our state's farming communities. We are deeply concerned about the decline of rural grocery stores and the resulting loss of convenient, nutritious food options. By fostering small business growth and improving nutrition, this legislation will help sustain and revitalize our rural communities.

SB 2228 builds upon the success of the Rural Food Sustainability Grant established in the previous session.¹ Cities such as Milnor, Butte, and Casselton have already benefited from this grant program². Supporting this bill will further enhance the quality of life in rural areas and ensure that producers have access to essential services.

We respectfully request a "Do Pass" recommendation on SB 2228. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

¹ *Rural Food Sustainability Grant*. (2023). Commerce | North Dakota. <https://www.commerce.nd.gov/community-services/community-development-rural-prosperity/cdrp-resources/cdrp-grant-programs/rural>

² *ND strategizes to combat rural community grocery store deserts*. (2024, December 28). Minotdailynews.com; Minot Daily News. <https://www.minotdailynews.com/news/local-news/2024/12/nd-strategizes-to-combat-rural-community-grocery-store-deserts/>