

January 29, 2025

RE: SB 2246

Dear Agriculture Committee Members,

I am writing this letter in support of SB2246. I have known for years that I can manage cattle grazing to improve my pastures. Up until now, I had not seen scientific data that could show me exactly how management affects carbon dioxide capture and storage for the entire pasture. This technology, now deployed at my ranch, opens a window into grazing management unlike anything I have seen before. We can now track grazer impacts on production and see how these impacts change over time on a daily basis. The data shows how my grazing system is extending the growing season and improving plant production. The state needs to take a hard look at how this new science and technology can support rangeland value and sustainability and help lead North Dakota ranchers into the future.

Sincerely,

Lewis Heaton,
2024 Aldo Leopold Award Winner
Heaton Ranches
McKenzie North Dakota