

Re SB2246

Dear Agriculture Committee Members:

I support this proposal to fund a feasibility study for a regenerative ranch. The bill asks for \$49,500 as a one-time grant. This seems a modest down payment to explore a different type of agriculture. And as in most things, diversification is a good thing.

The "Grand Ranch" would be a working, research operation where data about the interactions of an active herd with water and carbon would be obtained. This would be used to promote practices that enhance range productivity, improve soils and carbon sequestration.

Possible outcomes?

The world belongs to the next generation, and a "Grand Ranch" would be an exciting and enticing opportunity for young people with fresh perspectives to come to ND.

Products carrying the label "Made in ND on a sustainable ranch" would carry a premium price (as well as taste better)

This is an alternative to CAFO's which may be efficient but offer little resiliency in the food system as we sadly found out during the COVID epidemic.

CAFOs offer large volumes of meat that come with huge water bills and even larger piles of wastes. Regenerative ranching comes with less chemical and water use. Let the consumer decide what to buy and give the producer the option to choose.

Let's give something different a chance, pass this bill.