

2023 HOUSE AGRICULTURE

HB 1275

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture Committee
Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB 1275
1/26/2023

Relating to applicants for membership on the beef commission.

Chairman Thomas call the meeting to order at 11:05 AM

Members present: Chairman Thomas, Representatives Beltz, Christy, Finley-DeVile, Fisher, Henderson, Kiefert, Olson, Prichard, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, VanWinkle. Member absent: Representative Headland

Discussion Topics:

- Members
- Direct market beef producers
- Reservation producers
- List of qualified voters

In favor:

Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck, District 25, Primary bill sponsor, #16995
Senator Randy Lemm, District 20 Hillsboro (no written testimony)
Julie Ellingson, ND Stockmen's Association (no written testimony)
Jason Leiseth, President, ND Stockmen's Association (no written testimony)
Jason Schmidt, Medina ND Rancher, Past President of the ND Stockmen's Association (no written testimony)
Matt Purdue, ND Farmer's Union (no written testimony)

Opposed:

Larry Kinev, Dawson Rancher, IBand (no written testimony)
Frank Tomac, Cattle Rancher from Sioux County ND, #17230
August Heupel, Vice President of IBand (no written testimony)
Scott Shively, Towner ND (no written testimony)
Baillie Graner, Mandan Cattle Producer and Farmer (no written testimony)
Kenny Graner, Huff ND Rancher (no written testimony)
Samuel Wagner, Ag and Food Field Organizer, #16946

Neutral:

Allen Lund, Sioux County ND (no written testimony)

Additional written testimony:

Ron Volk, Sentinel Butte, ND, #16687

Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM

Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture Committee
Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB 1275
2/3/2023

Relating to applicants for membership on the beef commission.

Chairman Thomas call the meeting to order at 2:53 PM

Members present: Chairman Thomas, Vice Chairman Beltz, Representatives Christy, Finley-DeVille, Fisher, Headland, Henderson, Kiefert, Olson, Prichard, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, VanWinkle.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Representative Beltz moved do not pass.
Representative VanWinkle seconded.

Roll call vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Paul J. Thomas	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Josh Christy	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Craig Headland	Y
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	AB
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Brandon Prichard	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y

Motion passed 12-0-1

Representative Beltz will carry the bill.

Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 2:55 PM

Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1275: Agriculture Committee (Rep. Thomas, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1275 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

TESTIMONY

HB 1275

North Dakota House Agriculture Committee,

Please consider this my written testimony IN OPPOSITION to HB1275. For years, the governor has appointed the ND Beef Commission board while the corn and soybean boards are elected. This has allowed one group to control the board by playing politics. It is only right and fair that the producers who pay into the checkoff be allowed to vote and elect the Beef commission board, as it is the producer's money, and they have the right to elect who oversees how it's used. Again, please vote IN OPPOSITION to HB 1275.

Thank you

Ronald Volk

Sentinel Butte, ND

Testimony HB1275

Sam Wagner
Ag and Food Field Organizer
Dakota Resource Council
1720 Burnt Boat Dr. Ste 104
Bismarck ND 58503
Testimony in Opposition for HB 1275

To the Honorable Chairman and the members of the Committee We submit these remarks on behalf of DRC.

Mr. Chairman,

The Dakota Resource Council has worked towards checkoff reform for years in pursuit of fair markets for cattle. While we believe that this bill could be a positive step forward in transparency in the application process for the check off board members we believe that there are better options available for you to pass today. We still believe that direct democracy is better than the appointment of individuals by an elected official. More applications would mean more options but ultimately it's up to the governor to decide who gets in or wants to stay away from certain reforms. The way the current system is set up will only work towards keeping the status quo and real reform is needed in the Beef Commission.

If HB1436 is passed there will be no need for this bill.

We recommend a DO NOT PASS VOTE.

Introduction and Support Testimony for:
HB1275 relating to applicants for membership on the beef commission
January 26, 2023, 8:30 a.m. – Committee on Agriculture

Chair Thomas, Vice-Chair Beltz and member of the Committee on Agriculture.

For the record, I am Cindy Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative.

House Bill 1275 does the following:

1. Amends the application process for individuals seeking membership as an at-large representative on the Beef Commission. The individual seeking membership shall complete and submit an application in accordance with section 2 of this Act. Additionally, the application period is defined as opening on March first and closing on May first.
2. Adds a new section to chapter 4.1-03, Beef Commission. Section 2 of this proposed legislation defines the notice process when the term of an at-large representative is scheduled to expire. Section 2 follows.

At- large representatives - Expiring terms - Notice.

1. When the term of an at - large representative is scheduled to expire, the commission shall publish a notification, beginning in March of that year, once per month for two consecutive months in the official newspaper of each county. The notification must include:

- a. A statement indicating applications are being accepted for an at-large representative member on the commission;*
- b. Instructions for obtaining an application form;*
- c. The deadline to submit an application;*
- d. Submission instructions for a completed application; and*
- e. The length of the term of office.*

2. Beginning on March first, the commission shall post on the commission's website a notification that includes the information provided in subsection 1 in a year when the term of an at - large representative is scheduled to expire. The notification must remain posted until the application period closes

Your favorable consideration of House Bill 1275 is appreciated.

My name is Frank Tomac, cattle rancher from Sioux County ND.

I am opposed to HB 1275. This bill does nothing to solve the issue of membership on the ND Beef Commission.

First of all it requires every applicant to submit an application between the busiest and most crucial time of the year. March 1st to May 1st.

Second, it's only gonna be published in each counties local paper TWICE for each at-large position! How many people read the local paper? It's a dying form of communication.

But it will also be published on the ND Beef Commission website. If you've ever been on the ND Beef Commission website, it's one of the most difficult sites to navigate, especially for anyone with limited computer time. It definitely is not cowboy friendly.

One other thing this bill does NOT do, is specify a deadline for the appointment to be filled! This last appointment by the Governor was filled on October 27th! Well past the start of the July 1st fiscal year.

Thank You

Frank Tomac
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