

I am writing in support of HB 1487.

The mandatory assessment puts an additional stress on the already struggling ranch sector. We don't need the added expense when prices are low and necessary costs are high and rising.

Promotion of the beef industry should be a personal choice. Each producer should have the choice to give financial support to the group they feel best promotes their vision and protects their interests. For most people, that is *not* the ND Beef Commission due to their affiliation with the National Cattleman's Beef Association, a group which yields to the pressure of the Big Packers and their foreign interests.

While we can appreciate the education aspect of the NDBC, the funneling of checkoff funds to the NCBA outweighs those benefits, and mandatory support of such a program is an infringement on our right to decide who represents our sector of agriculture on a state and national level.

Forced funding of a group which backs those who take advantage of us is wrong on every level. It's time to bring back the freedom of choice for North Dakota Cattlemen and Cattlewomen.

Vote YES on HB 1487.