



## U.S. Durum Growers Association

*PROMOTING THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF DURUM AND SEMOLINA*

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### **Testimony of Steve Perdue**

#### **USDGA Director**

**February 5, 2021**

Chairman Johnson and members of the Committee:

My name is Steve Perdue, and I am a farmer from Ray and serve as a director for the United States Durum Growers Association (USDGA). On behalf of USDGA, I am here to oppose HB 1487 as we see the value of the state's checkoff programs to producers and see the changes this bill provides as unnecessary.

USDGA has represented the nation's durum growers for more than 60 years. Today, we represent grower and industry members from 10 states, with North Dakota producing 50-60 percent of the nation's durum.

USDGA opposes HB 1487 as we see the important work done by the state's checkoff programs, including the beef checkoff, in promoting North Dakota's agriculture commodities, educating consumers on the products produced here in North Dakota and pursuing valuable research needed to ensure North Dakota's agriculture products can continue to compete on a global level. The producer-led efforts of these organizations are essential to the future of agriculture in North Dakota.

In addition, the state beef check off is currently 100 percent refundable making this bill unnecessary. Changing the collection procedures puts more burden on the 90 percent of producers wanting to support and promote their industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee and express opposition to HB 1487.