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**Testimony of
Matt Perdue
North Dakota Farmers Union
Before the
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
February 4, 2021**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill No. 1215. My name is Matt Perdue, and I am testifying on behalf of North Dakota Farmers Union's (NDFU) members.

NDFU opposes HB 1215, because it reduces funding for the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF). The OHF has a proven track record of enhancing working agricultural lands, developing and conserving wildlife habitat, and promoting fishing, hunting and recreational opportunities.

Since its establishment in 2013, OHF has supported a wide variety of projects of all shapes and sizes and in every county in North Dakota. Those projects range from grazing lands improvements, pollinator and wildlife habitat enhancements, and waterway protection and maintenance projects. OHF has also funded park and playground improvements, recreational paths, fishing docks and boat ramps. Through these investments, OHF has improved North Dakota's landscape for the state's residents and visitors to enjoy.

NDFU the diverse stakeholder groups represented on the OHF Advisory Board are central to the fund's success. As prescribed by NDCC 54-17.8-06, the advisory board consists of representatives of the agriculture, energy, conservation, business and parks and recreation communities. Together, these stakeholders are able to identify projects that will deliver the greatest benefit to North Dakota citizens.

We respectfully urge a "Do Not Pass" on HB 1215. Thank you for your consideration.

