

**North Dakota Stockmen's Association**  
**Testimony to the**  
**Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee on SB 2048**  
**Jan. 20, 2021**

Good morning, Chairman Klein and Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee members. For the record, my name is Julie Ellingson and I represent the North Dakota Stockmen's Association. For those of you who are not familiar, the Stockmen's Association is a 91-year-old beef cattle trade organization comprised of approximately 3,000 cattle-ranching families. We also have the unique charge of administering the state's brand inspection and brand recording programs on behalf of the State of North Dakota.

It is in that capacity that we appear before you on SB 2048, which would adopt the revised Uniform Unclaimed Property Act. The Stockmen's Association oversees the estray fund, which is the repository of the proceeds from the sale of cattle, horses and mules with undetermined owners. Much like the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands oversees other types of unclaimed property, the Stockmen's Association safeguards these estray funds and works to return those monies to the rightful owners through a very specific process outlined in North Dakota Century Code 4.1-75.

We have no objections to the bill before you, but, upon the suggestion of our legal counsel, to ensure there is no confusion now or in the future between the two chapters, we request that a simple clarifying statement be added to the bill, stating that this chapter does not apply to estrays.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I would stand for any questions.