



MANDAN, HIDATSA & ARIKARA NATION

Three Affiliated Tribes * Fort Berthold Indian Reservation
404 Frontage Road New Town, ND 58763
Tribal Business Council

Office of the Chairman
Mark N. Fox

HOUSE BILL 1471 AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 9, 2023

TESTIMONY OF MARK N. FOX, CHAIRMAN MANDAN, HIDATSA AND ARIKARA NATION

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Mark Fox, I am the Chairman of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation (MHA Nation). The MHA Nation supports House Bill 1471, a bill that creates a food insecurity task force.

The MHA Nation is currently constructing the Native Green Grow (NG2) Greenhouse Project on a 40 acre+ “Energy Property” site development and improvement area. NG2 includes a 1.36 hectare (143,350 SF) glass glazed roof, Venlo style, greenhouse with three separate growing compartments for both vine crops and nutrient-film-technique (NFT) areas; a 3,277 SF Produce Sales area offering sales of greenhouse produce along with natural products grown in the community; an Administration Experience Center; as well as, a 12,000 SF insulated metal roof warehouse for fertigation, irrigation, mixing and dry/cold storage facilities..

The NG2 project seeks to capture some of the flared gas on the Fort Berthold Reservation (Reservation) and convert it into heat and electrical power. The carbon dioxide is redirected to grow vegetable produce in a large-scale, self-contained, and climate-controlled greenhouse.

This model dramatically extends the limited North Dakota growing season because of year-round production.

NG2 will contribute to the MHA Nation's overall goals of food sovereignty and economic development by providing fresh, accessible and healthy food for our members, as well as, local and regional communities. Our produce sales and job creation expands our economic development opportunities.

We support the food insecurity task force as the task force seeks to identify areas of food insecurity while ultimately establishing economic security. Mr. Chairman, we urge a do pass of HB1471. Thank you.