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**Testimony of Nathan Kroh
Dairy Coordinator
House Bill 1515
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs
Fort Union Room
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Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I am Nathan Kroh, the Dairy Coordinator for the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) here on behalf of Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here in opposition of the House Bill 1515, relating to the sale of raw milk directly to the consumer.

Disease outbreaks from milk has dropped from 25% of all foodborne and water diseases to less than 1%, only because of pasteurization. Contamination is impossible to prevent, and recent studies have shown that milk was contaminated 2.5-4.6% of the time with pathogens. Raw milk causes more than 800 times the illness rate and is 45 times more likely to lead to hospitalization on a per serving basis than pasteurized milk.

The contamination in raw milk an unknown array of bacteria from sources outside of the animal. A healthy udder typically does not contain much bacteria, which means the bacteria, yeasts and molds found in milk is from dust, manure and from inadequate cleaning of equipment. Raw milk is not self-protective either. Collectively, the individual antimicrobial components within milk,

are unable to prevent pathogen growth, as proven through outbreak studies, nor are they present in quantities sufficient to provide significant beneficial antimicrobial functions. High levels of immunoglobins and lactoferrins in milk, would indicate the animal is fighting a bacterial infection and the milk shouldn't be consumed.

States that have legalized raw milk sales have incurred 75% of milk borne outbreaks. Since 2020, New York Department of Agriculture and Markets has issued 60 food safety alerts, and 11 of those alerts were issued due to pathogens found in raw milk or raw cheese products.

Raw milk is already accessible in North Dakota through the animal share agreements.

Thank you for listening to my testimony and on HB 1515 and I would be happy to stand for questions you may have.