

**Testimony of Kim Saueressig
North Dakota Pea & Lentil Council
To House Agriculture Committee
In Support to HB 1103
Thursday, January 9, 2025**

Chairman Beltz and members of the Committee, my name is Kim Saueressig, and I am the chair of the North Dakota Dry Pea & Lentil Council. The primary goal of the Council is to support the pulse crop industry in North Dakota by funding research, education programs and market development efforts. The Council consists of five producers from districts across North Dakota. Each producer is elected to serve a three-year term.

We are in support of amending the definition of “producer” in this bill because the amendment would allow any person who plants and harvests a dry pea and lentil crop within a six-year period the opportunity to be elected to the Council.

Pulse crops must be grown in an extended crop rotation. Fungal and bacterial organisms that attack pulse crops complete their life cycle in the crop residue. Tillage to eliminate the crop residue is recommended, but many North Dakota farm fields participate in no-till crop systems. If proper rotation time is not given to these no-till fields, the diseases in the tillage can cause significant yield losses in future harvests. A person’s crop rotation may involve not planting a dry pea or lentil crop for multiple years. A person should not be disqualified from serving on the Council due to their efforts in producing healthy crop fields.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for House Bill 1103 to allow those producers who want to be involved with the North Dakota Pea & Lentil Council to be able to maximize the greatest potential of their crop fields.