

## **Statement in opposition to HB 1151**

Submitted by Wildtype (US-based cultivated seafood producer)

1/16/2025

We are writing from Wildtype, a small business of about 80 people working to create a new source of clean American seafood made right here within the borders of this nation. We oppose HB 1151 and would respectfully encourage this committee to consider some of the implications if this ban were to be enacted.

First, do we really believe the government should tell us what we can and cannot feed our families? While it may seem tempting to some to snuff out a new American industry before it is born, doing so at the expense of consumer freedom is a mistake.

HB 1151 would deepen our country's dependence on foreign imports of seafood. Today, about 80% of the seafood we consume in this country is imported, much of it from China. We make Wildtype salmon entirely in the United States. Unlike much of the seafood we eat, it is not then sent overseas for processing. It is made and stays here in the United States. We know where every input comes from and can track it meticulously from raw ingredients to our finished product. You'd be hard pressed to find another source of American seafood with a similar level of traceability. Banning these products only increases our dependence on other countries for the food on our plates.

Proponents of this ban have argued that they should be banned because we cannot know that the products are safe. This is nonsense. In Wildtype's safety submissions to FDA, we have shown that bacterial and heavy metal levels are as much as four thousand times lower than conventional seafood. Furthermore, we know that certain products on the market will kill you (for example, cigarettes), but no state in the union is pushing legislation to ban the sale of these products.

This bill would make North Dakota less innovative and close the gates on high paying jobs that have come to this state. American innovation is good for our economy.

We sincerely hope this committee continues to uphold the defense of liberty by voting down this harmful and freedom-constraining bill.

Thank you for offering us the opportunity to provide our perspectives today.