



In Favor of SB 2177
House Finance and Taxation
March 10, 2025

Chairman Headland and Committee members:

For the record, my name is Lesley Icenogle, state government liaison for the North Dakota Corn Growers Association (NDCGA). NDCGA represents more than 13,000 growers across the state. Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for Senate Bill 2177.

Expanding animal agriculture is a policy priority for NDCGA. North Dakota annually produces around 400 million bushels of corn, with nearly half dedicated to ethanol production and 11% to animal feed. North Dakota's ethanol plants, in turn, annually produce 1.5 million tons of dried distillers grains, a protein-rich feed supplement for livestock. North Dakota exports more than 80% of this valuable coproduct due to excess supply for the current demand.

SB 2177 provides funding to counties for infrastructure projects near animal ag facilities. Consistent funding for rural infrastructure is critical, particularly with the spending caps for political subdivisions under consideration as part of property tax reform. This bill will help counties support animal ag development, which is significantly lagging in our state compared to our neighboring states. We need animal agriculture to expand in North Dakota, not only for economic development purposes, but also to keep generations in the state. For example, crop production on a family's acreage may not be enough to support two siblings who both want to farm. Adding livestock to a farming operation can

make it possible for both to state in the state, farm together, and earn enough to support two families in the future.

The NDCGA mission statement is “growing a healthy, profitable business climate for northern corn,” and developing animal agriculture facilities and infrastructure in the state will help us meet this mission. We urge your support for SB 2177. Thank you for your consideration, and I will stand for questions.