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**Testimony of Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs
Fort Union
March 13, 2025**

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee, I am Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here today in support of HB 1143, which provides a 5 million dollar appropriation for a grant program for food distribution facilities.

During the last biennium, two programs from state and federal funds were administered by my department. Statewide Food distribution program purchased over \$638,000 worth of food through 20 local vendors and was distributed to 164 food pantry sites. The Local foods purchase cooperative agreement program sourced products from 35 local vendors and was distributed to 238 local food pantries in 50 counties to 145,000 plus individuals.

Chairman Luick and committee members, thank you for your time and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.