

Dear Senators Thomas, Conley, Lemm, Weston & Representatives Beltz & Hauck and members of the ND Legislature

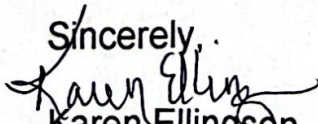
With regard to Senate Bill No. 2174

In regards to the proposal to make it easier for CAFOs and feedlots to locate where they want, please let us know that you haven't been bought and paid for by the CAFO industry lobby. The ominous trend in ND is to deregulate industries for the purpose of increasing short term profits. All too often we see where campaign contributions and favors to legislators lead to changes in laws and regulations that benefit industry. You were elected to represent us, not the feedlot industry.

Feedlots are not benign. They create lots of objectionable odors, noises, pollution threats, health threats and truck traffic to mention just a few of the issues they create. If they are allowed at all, they should be isolated in remote rural settings, far far away from residential homes. CAFOs are nothing like normal farming and ranching; they are intensified, high density industrial operations that deteriorate adjacent property values. Who would want to live in a home downwind from a pig, cow, chicken etc. farm? NOBODY! Peoples' single biggest lifetime investment is in their home. Allowing an objectionable industry to locate next door destroys property values not to mention the dangers to health, land and water resources.

When you consider this legislation, please keep in mind all the people that will be subjected to the problems brought by CAFOs. Please put yourself in their shoes. How would you like it if a feedlot was built next door to your home? Ask the people proposing the CAFO if they would live next to this....ask them if they would want their children to go to school next to a field of manure full of nitrates....ask the people of Iowa what they think of their state since allowing the lack of legislation to destroy water, land and other resources.

Take the time to educate yourselves to the ramifications a yes vote on this proposal will mean for the entire state. Show us you know who you are working for and who you represent by voting NO on this proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karen Ellingson
Christine, ND