

Chairman Luick and Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Livestock producers deserve the right to choose their representatives from across the entire state of North Dakota. Currently, the beef checkoff and the NDSA handpick members for the beef commission, making it the only checkoff group operating in this manner.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of SB 2202, a bill that would bring positive change by ensuring that livestock producers from equal districts across the state have the opportunity to serve on the beef commission.

It is worth noting that North Dakota is one of the few states in the country with a \$2 per animal checkoff fee that was quietly passed without a vote from the producers. This lack of transparency underscores the need for change to ensure fairness and proper representation for our producers. Our producers have long asked for equal treatment, and HB 1207 addresses this need effectively. Also, the Beef Commission has the names of the livestock producers in the state because we get a flyer in the mail throughout the year. For this reasoning, the cost of elections is not an issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Hart Land and Cattle
Corey Hart
Chasely, ND