

2025 SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2161

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2161
1/16/2025

A bill relating to member districts and the assessments levied by the barley council and wheat commission.

2:43 p.m. Chairman Luick called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman Luick, Vice-Chair Myrdal, Senator Marcellais, Senator Weston, Senator Weber, Senator Lemm

Discussion Topics:

- Resource allocation
- Producer representation and education
- Funding increases
- Term limits
- Equates from mills to bushels
- Bill origin
- Deficit spending
- Relevancy of barley
- Percentage of refunds
- Investment history
- Expense increases
- Domestic promotion
- International market
- Wheat variety quality
- Consumer education and perception
- Wheat shipments
- Gluten free wheat
- NDSU research support
- Living Ag Classroom
- Political or lobbying activities
- Development programs

2:44 p.m. Senator Greg Kessel, District 39, testified in favor and submitted testimony #29522.

2:48 p.m. Nathan Boll, Chairman of ND Barley Council, testified in favor and submitted testimony #29553.

2:50 p.m. Scott Huso, board member of the ND Wheat Commission, testified in favor and submitted testimony #29498.

2:59 p.m. Aaron Kjelland, Commissioner of the ND Wheat Commission, testified in favor and submitted testimony # 29496.

3:07 p.m. Alyssa Gloss, Executive Director of the US Durum Grower's Association, testified in favor and submitted testimony #29427.

3:12 p.m. Ryan Ellis, President of the ND Grain Grower's Association, testified in favor and submitted testimony #29520.

3:15 p.m. James Bahm, former member of the ND Grain Grower's Association, testified in favor of SB 2161.

3:17 p.m. Kenny Graner, wheat producer, testified in favor of SB 2161.

3:21 p.m. Matt Perdue, North Dakota Farmer's Union Members, testified in opposition and submitted testimony #31408.

3:31 p.m. Chairman Luick adjourned the meeting.

Audrey Oswald, Committee Clerk



U.S. Durum Growers Association

PROMOTING THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF DURUM AND SEMOLINA

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Testimony of Steve Perdue

President

SB 2161

January 16, 2025

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee, my name is Steve Perdue, and I'm a farmer from Ray and serve as the President of the U.S. Durum Growers Association (USDGA). On behalf of the USDGA, we support SB 2161 because of the importance of sustaining and growing the wheat industry through the vital North Dakota Wheat Commission (NDWC) research, marketing, and communication.

USDGA has served to promote the production and marketing of durum wheat and semolina since 1978. The association represents grower and industry members from 10 states. We have many members from North Dakota as the acres produced in the state account for just over half of the country's durum production. Due to durum's hardness, density, high protein, and color it is milled into semolina which is ideal for use in premium pasta.

SB 2161 increases the wheat assessment from the rate of 15 mills per bushel to 20 mills per bushel, which at a dollar amount would amount to \$0.02. This assessment has not risen since 2005, making it below current inflation for daily operation of vital programs, as well as below other state assessment rates. USDGA supports aligning with these other state assessments as we see other states that produce durum at a higher rate such as Montana at 25 mills per bushel.

Additionally, as North Dakota continues to be a leading state in wheat production, it's vital to the sustainability of the industry to further invest in research and domestic and international marketing to maintain competitiveness in an increasingly competitive market. It's critical to the industry's future to increase communication and public education on the process of assessments, the production of wheat to the next generation, as well as increasing producer education for more profitable production through new research and educational opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to present USDGA's support for SB 2161. USDGA believes an assessment increase will support the future of wheat production by furthering research, expanding in an increasing competitive market, communicating the importance of wheat to various audiences, and aligning with other wheat checkoffs.



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Testimony on SB 2161
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee
Thursday, January 16, 2025

Chairman Luick, members of the Senate Agriculture and Veteran Affairs Committee, I'm Aaron Kjelland from Walsh County which is in Janne's district and I'm proud to be here today as a farmer representing my fellow wheat growers in my role as a Board Member on the North Dakota Wheat Commission. I rise in support of Senate Bill 2161.

I have been a Walsh county representative since 2006, and was elected to serve on the North Dakota Wheat Commission in 2018. One of our main roles is to support research and innovations that benefit the farmers of our state. Much of this work is accomplished through our support of NDSU and the NDSU extension. In fact, over 35 percent of last year's budget went directly to grants that allowed wheat research progress.

The Wheat Commission believes strongly that investments like breeding new and better wheat varieties, diagnosing and testing plant diseases, surveying and studying pests and addressing timely production related issues have dramatic payback to our growers and subsequently, to our state's economy.

The NDSU hard red spring and durum wheat breeding programs are some of the largest public breeding programs in the U.S., and it is critical that they remain vibrant and robust, and industry impactful in their efforts. As the leading state in the U.S. for hard red spring and durum wheat production, our producers need to have the best varieties, and research investment to address pest, disease and agronomic challenges to maintain our position in the U.S. and world wheat industries.

I know first-hand the benefit of NDSU produced varieties on my farm. They have the built-in quality to help me achieve the highest price at the elevator and also compete for the highest price in the world market. Private wheat breeding companies also have great varieties that have helped drive our average wheat yields in the state higher, but I personally believe that the public program sets the base or the standard for quality and built-in disease and pest resistance. With this 5 mill increase in the wheat check-off we can ensure that the Commission, and wheat producers in the state, have the resources needed to maintain vibrant public wheat breeding programs, which provides the needed synergy with private investment to deliver top-notch varieties into the future.

There are tremendous opportunities in the future to meld new breeding technologies into our breeding programs, but that takes resources. New equipment needs, technicians and scientists to conduct the research and the needed test trials across the state. Both equipment and labor costs continue to escalate.

The Commission and producers are very appreciative of the support many of you and the Legislature have provided for the investment in the new facilities at NDSU, the Peltier Complex and the Bolley Lab. Tremendous new facilities that take NDSU research to competitive levels with other Universities, as they compete for students and scientists. Wheat needs to be a competitive player in that future, and this increase in the wheat check-off will position us to assist in that future.

Our average wheat yield in ND has increased almost 30% over the last 20 years, and the wheat we produce in this state still competes at the highest level in the world quality spectrum. With your help, we can continue to partner with farmers and scientists to support our industry and state.

Another key effort the Commission takes on is domestic promotion. Half of our wheat is consumed domestically, but that is not something to take for granted. Fad diets that eliminate or limit wheat food consumption, misinformation on wheat breeding and production practices, and consumer perceptions about chemical use in farming, perceptions of GMO's and food ingredients are issues we are constantly battling and have affected wheat consumption over the years. Commission efforts to educate consumers is done on a collaborative basis with national organizations such as National Pasta Association and Wheat Foods Council. I currently sit on the board of Wheat Foods Council and have seen first-hand the positive effects of supporting domestic promotion efforts. In fact, this is one of the areas the Commission and our producer constituents feel could use more focus and an increased check off would help amplify these efforts and promote our wheat and production practices in a positive light with consumers, especially those removed from farming.

Thank you for your time, and I urge your full support for SB 2161, as drafted. I am open to take any questions you might have.



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Testimony on SB 2161
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee
Thursday, January 16, 2025

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee, it is my pleasure to be with you today. Good morning, my name is Scott Huso, Board Member of the North Dakota Wheat Commission, and proud wheat farmer from Aneta, North Dakota. Not only am I a proud wheat farmer, I'm proud to be part of an industry that has provided a backbone for North Dakota since my ancestors settled here in 1883. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 2161.

The North Dakota Wheat Commission Board unanimously supports this 5 mill increase in the wheat check-off. There are many opportunities for wheat moving forward and we want to be in a position to be able to fund those opportunities for North Dakota producers. At our recent Annual meeting of county representatives, we also discussed an increase in the wheat check-off, and there was overwhelming support to pursue an increase. During the process of consideration, I gained a great education on the work that is involved in moving this proposal forward and the positive effects that the check-off provides.

It was very interesting for me to learn that the current check-off amount of 15 mills (1 ½ cents per bushel) was established 20 years ago, in 2005. Many major accomplishments have taken place through the North Dakota Wheat Commission because of that investment. Research at North Dakota State University – both wheat breeding and many other facets of wheat production; International promotion of the highest quality classes of wheat in the world – hard red spring wheat, and durum – to customers that are willing to pay a premium for our wheat; Domestic promotion through wheat quality tours and interaction with customer mills and bakeries; Education for purchasers through courses hosted at Northern Crops Institute and Wheat Marketing Center; and education for consumers regarding the positive impacts that a wheat-related diet can have on their life and the role that modern agriculture plays in producing the food they purchase. Most importantly, the Commission helps educate farmers about how the high-quality wheat that they raise is demanded by millers, bakers, and pasta producers throughout the world.

The North Dakota Wheat Commission has long prioritized international market development to enhance market opportunities for North Dakota wheat farmers. And since 2005, the cost of achieving those goals has continued to increase, while competition has not decreased. We have had a lot of success for our premium quality wheat. With an increased check-off, I believe that the North Dakota Wheat Commission will have the ability to achieve more goals on behalf of the North Dakota wheat farmer.

Here are just a couple of examples that I've noticed. I sit on the Board for the Wheat Marketing Center in Portland, Oregon. Last February members of our North Dakota Wheat Commission took a trip to Portland to tour the WMC office and other related businesses in the area. We went to several businesses, including pasta processing, a tugboat company, a bakery with a retail location, and a visit to Dave's Killer Bread – a very successful bread bakery in Portland. It turns out that Dave's Killer Bread uses Canadian spring wheat flour as their main ingredient. I was shocked to see that – especially for as popular as they are throughout that region. I believe this is something that can be overcome with an expanded focus on domestic promotion of our high-quality flour.

In November of 2022, I was part of a delegation through US Wheat Associates that visited three different cities in Southeast Asia to promote three different classes of wheat – Bangkok, Jakarta, and Manila. My role was the farmer of hard red spring wheat. Our audience in each location was millers and bakers from that region. For each class of wheat, we would present on production, quality, supply and demand, and the perspective of the farmer. During each presentation, the crowd was very interested to hear how dedicated the farmer is to produce a high-quality wheat seed to produce high quality flour. The area in SE Asia is critical to the development of the international market for our hard-red spring wheat. We need to continue to educate international buyers about the effort that is used to create high quality hard red spring wheat.

I have recognized that we need to do a better job of educating wheat farmers on the importance of quality in the equation that they use to select wheat varieties. We are already seeing wheat merchandising companies contract production for specific varieties. This is not going to slow down, and farmers need to be ready to adapt to this potential new format for raising different types of wheat.

Finally, my hometown of Aneta is fortunate to still have a café. I'm a reliable customer of the café. Several years ago, I ordered breakfast there: two eggs with white toast and a coffee. The daughter of the owner wrote down my order and took it to the grill so that her mother could prepare the meal. While there she asked her mom, "what's the difference between white and wheat bread?" Her mom told her that white bread is made with wheat that was sprayed with a chemical that bleaches out the color in the kernels which results in the lighter colored flour. I stood up right away and shared with both of them that white bread is the result of the removing the bran and germ layers of the wheat kernel during the milling process. That is what causes the lighter color. The mother told me that she thought it was caused by chemical but was happy to know that it was a mechanical method that resulted in white bread. That experience showed me that we need to do a better job of educating our end product consumers about the healthy characteristics of hard-red spring wheat flour.

Things within this part of the agricultural industry are changing, and the North Dakota Wheat Commission wants to continue our role as a leader in the wheat industry.

Thank you for your time this morning and I urge you to support SB 2161 in its current form. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.



North Dakota Grain Growers Association Testimony in Favor of SB 2161 January 16, 2025

Chairman Luick, members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee, my name is Ryan Ellis. I am a family farmer from Williston, North Dakota as well as the President of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. SB 2161 proposes important updates to the structure and funding of the North Dakota Barley Council and North Dakota Wheat Commission. As a farmer-led organization representing wheat and barley growers across the state, the North Dakota Grain Growers Association strongly support these changes.

Senate Bill 2161 makes three key modifications:

1. It allows for more flexibility in filling vacant council seats by permitting at-large appointments when a district lacks an eligible participating producer. This will ensure full representation on the Barley Council even as our industry evolves.
2. It increases the barley checkoff assessment from 20 to 30 mills per bushel. This modest increase will provide critical funding for research, market development, and promotion efforts that benefit all barley growers in North Dakota.
3. Similarly, it raises the wheat checkoff from 15 to 20 mills per bushel. These additional resources will support vital programs for our wheat industry.

These assessment increases are the first in many years for both crops. They reflect the rising costs of conducting impactful research and market development work. The additional funding will allow our state's barley and wheat commissions to expand their efforts in developing new varieties, improving crop quality, exploring new markets, and promoting our products both domestically and internationally.

As farmers, we understand the importance of investing in the future of our industry. These checkoff programs have a proven track record of delivering value back to producers through their various initiatives. The proposed increases will ensure this important work can continue and expand to meet the evolving needs of our industry.

Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association respectfully requests your support for Senate Bill 2161 as the bill is proposed. This legislation will strengthen the ability of our barley and wheat commissions to serve North Dakota producers and enhance the competitiveness of these vital crops.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Testimony of Senator Greg Kessel
District 39
In Favor of SB 2161
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee
January 16, 2025

Chairman Luick, members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee; for the record I am Senator Greg Kessel. I am a family farmer from Belfield, North Dakota and I also represent District 39 in the North Dakota Senate.

As a strong advocate for the agricultural community, I am proud to support **Senate Bill No. 2161**, which seeks to make meaningful enhancements to the representation and funding mechanisms for the North Dakota Barley Council and Wheat Commission. This bill addresses critical needs in governance and resource allocation, ensuring that the interests of our state's barley and wheat producers are protected and advanced.

Key Highlights of Senate Bill No. 2161

1. Strengthening Representation for Producers

- SB 2161 introduces a practical solution to challenges in electing district representatives by allowing for the appointment of at-large representatives when necessary. This ensures all producers, regardless of district participation levels, have a voice on the council and commission, promoting fairness and inclusivity across the state.

2. Increased Funding to Support Industry Growth

- The proposed adjustment in assessment rates—from 20 to 30 mills per bushel for barley and 15 to 20 mills per bushel for wheat—is a necessary step to provide additional funding for the council and commission. These funds will be invested in key initiatives, including:
 - Research and development to improve crop yields and sustainability.
 - Marketing efforts to enhance the competitiveness of North Dakota's barley and wheat in global markets.
 - Educational programs to support producers with the latest innovations and market trends.

3. Ensuring Stability and Long-Term Leadership

- By establishing clear procedures for filling vacancies and limiting terms to encourage new participation, SB 2161 ensures continuity while fostering fresh perspectives in leadership. This balance is critical to adapt to the evolving agricultural landscape.

Why This Matters

North Dakota's barley and wheat producers are the backbone of our state's agricultural economy. SB 2161 is a proactive measure that not only ensures effective representation but also secures the financial resources necessary for the continued success and competitiveness of these vital industries. It reflects our commitment to fostering innovation, expanding market opportunities, and supporting the hardworking producers who sustain our communities and economy.

I encourage my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly to join me in supporting Senate Bill No. 2161 for the benefit of North Dakota's agricultural future.

**North Dakota Barley Council
Testimony for SB 2161**

January 16, 2025

Mr. Chairman, members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, for the record my name is Nathan Boll. I farm near Newburg, ND, and currently serve as chairman of the North Dakota Barley Council.

I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2161.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, North Dakota is one of the top three barley producing states, accounting for approximately 25% to 30% of U. S. production. In order to keep barley agronomically viable and economically profitable for North Dakota barley growers, it is important that we continue to invest in supporting research and development, market development, and risk management education. Advancements in variety development in many crops are allowing growers to achieve higher yields, improved quality, and more consistent profits. Increasing the barley check-off from the current level of two cents per bushel to three cents per bushel represents the foundation of funding necessary to enhance and expand research, development, market development, education, and related efforts.

The Barley Council vetted the proposed check off increase with our county reps in December 2024. Our county reps voted unanimously to support an increase in the barley check-off.

Attached to this testimony is background information related to the barley check-off.

On behalf of the barley growers, thank you for your consideration and support of SB 2161. If you have questions, please let us know.

ND BARLEY COUNCIL – CHECK-OFF INCREASE TALKING POINTS – JANUARY 2025

- Check-Off Information
 - Current Check-Off: \$0.02 per bushel
 - Proposed Check-Off: \$0.03 per bushel (increase of \$0.01 per bushel)
 - Last increase: 2009
- Farm Impact
 - Number of farms producing barley in North Dakota: 1,627 (source: USDA Census of Ag – 2022).
 - Average barley acres per farm: approximately 350
 - Average number of bushels produced per farm: approximately 22,655
 - Average cost of check-off per farm:
 - At \$0.02 per bushel: approximately \$450.00 per year.
 - At \$0.03 per bushel: approximately \$680.00 per year (increase of approximately \$230.00 per year).
 - Average cost of check-off per acre:
 - At \$0.02 per bushel: approximately \$1.30 per acre.
 - At \$0.03 per bushel: approximately \$1.95 per acre (increase of approximately \$0.65 per acre).
- Revenue
 - Revenue generated (based upon a three year average of 29 million bushels assessed)
 - At \$0.02 per bushel: approximately \$580,000.00 per year (\$1,160,000.00 per biennium)
 - At \$0.03 per bushel: approximately \$870,000.00 per year (\$1,740,000.00 per biennium)
 - The increase of \$0.01 per bushel generates approximately \$290,000.00 per year, or \$580,000.00 per biennium.
- Expenditures
 - Current expenditures at \$0.02 per bushel: approximately \$600,000.00 to \$700,000.00 per year (\$1.2 million to \$1.4 million per biennium).
 - Anticipated expenditures at \$0.03 per bushel: approximately \$750,000 to \$800,000.00 per year (\$1.5 million to \$1.6 million per biennium).
- Approximate Allocation of Barley Check-Off Dollars
 - Farm Policy: 29% (NBGA, NDGGA, farm program servicing, crop insurance).
 - Market Development: 19% (U. S. Grains Council, procurement education, trade team servicing).
 - Research and Development: 34% (NDSU barley breeding and planting pathology, USDA-ARS).
 - Administration and Overhead: 18% (salaries, benefits, stipends, office rent, general activities).
- Utilization of Additional Check-Off Dollars
 - Keep pace with increasing costs in each category of revenue allocation.
 - Maintain barley as an agronomically viable and economic profitable crop for North Dakota growers.
- Barley Production Trends

NORTH DAKOTA BARLEY PRODUCTION TRENDS						
DATA SOURCE: USDA-NASS						
STATE	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Area planted (acres)	580,000	530,000	580,000	740,000	690,000	370,000
Area harvested (acres)	445,000	460,000	430,000	650,000	570,000	285,000
Production (bushels)	32,040,000	28,980,000	21,930,000	47,450,000	40,470,000	21,090,000

BARLEY CHECK-OFF DOLLARS – AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

Investment: the barley check-off in North Dakota is \$0.02 per bushel. Studies show that for every barley check-off dollar (\$1.00) invested, over seven dollars (\$7.00) are returned to the benefit of the grower (reference available upon request). The North Dakota Barley Council invests check-off dollars in a number of research projects and alliances that promote barley utilization and support barley producers.

Variety Development and Crop Management: developing barley varieties for the future requires consistent support of agricultural research in barley breeding, genetics, pathology, and quality. The Barley Council invests check-off dollars for: 1) barley variety development at NDSU to produce varieties that are agronomically viable and economically profitable; 2) barley pathology research at NDSU and USDA-ARS to develop disease resistant varieties and manage diseases; 3) agronomic trials at ND Ag Experiment Stations to enhance production tools; 4) barley malt quality research at NDSU to ascertain barley varieties meet the needs of both barley producers and buyers. The Barley Council also works with the National Barley Improvement Committee (NBIC) as well as the U. S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative (USWBSI) to generate federal research funding for barley research.

Market Development: North Dakota barley production is largely sold into malting and brewing markets (approximately 75%) as well as pet food markets (approximately 25%). The Barley Council maintains a strong alliance with U. S. Grains Council to develop export markets for malting barley, with Mexico serving as the primary target market. The Barley Council also works with domestic buyers of barley in both malting and pet food applications.

Farm Policy: The Barley Council supports farm policy development through the National Barley Growers Association and the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. This helps to keep barley viable in the farm bill. This also includes monitoring environmental regulations in an effort to prevent unnecessary regulatory burdens on growers.

Crop Insurance: The Barley Council coordinated development of a new crop insurance product (Malting Barley Endorsement) to provide barley producers with an additional risk management tool. Development of this product included USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA), malting industry barley buyers, and private insurance developers.

Procurement Education: The Barley Council recognizes many buyers do not have a background in production agriculture, which presents challenges in communication between buyers and barley producers. The Barley Council supports research at North Dakota State University Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics to measure the risks of producing malting barley in comparison with wheat, corn, soybeans, and canola. This results in improved communication between buyers and barley producers as it provides buyers with a comprehensive review of crop enterprise decision making at the farm level. This has assisted in enhancing malting barley contract programs.





Contact:
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**Testimony of
Matt Perdue
North Dakota Farmers Union
Before the
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee
January 16, 2025**

Chairman Luick and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2161. My name is Matt Perdue, and I am testifying on behalf of North Dakota Farmers Union's (NDFU) members.

NDFU believes checkoffs provide valuable research, promotion and market development. We appreciate the North Dakota Barley Council and North Dakota Wheat Commission making time to meet with our board of directors in November. NDBC and NDWC made a strong case for the importance of increased investment in the two checkoffs. We generally support the proposed increases in SB 2161.

However, our member-driven Policy & Action opposes the use of checkoff funds for political or lobbying activities. NDCC 4.1-13-23 requires that "at least two mills" collected from the wheat checkoff be distributed to trade associations for "activities related to domestic wheat policy issues, wheat production, promotion, and sales." We think it is important to acknowledge the implications this bill could have for checkoff-funded lobbying activities.

Our leadership wants to be a good partner to the North Dakota Wheat Commission, the North Dakota Barley Council, and the two trade associations. We do not wish to harm the existing financial relationship between the wheat checkoff and the associations. Our leadership agreed to support this legislation if the additional funds generated by the increase to the wheat checkoff are dedicated to research, education and market development activities.

Attached is a proposed amendment for the committee's consideration. We encourage the committee to strike the words "at least" from NDCC 4.1-13-23. We will gladly support SB 2161 if the committee adopts the amendment.

The NDWC, NDBC, and the two trade associations are important partners for our organization. We all have a shared mission to support North Dakota agriculture, and we collaborate on a variety of initiatives. We look forward to continuing that collaboration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I will stand for any questions.



Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
SENATE BILL NO. 2161**

AMENDMENT. Section 4.1-13-23 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4.1-13-23. Contract with trade associations.

The commission shall expend an amount ~~at least~~ equal to that raised by two mills of the assessment provided for in section 4.1-13-15 to contract for activities related to domestic wheat policy issues, wheat production, promotion, and sales. The contracts may be with no more than two trade associations that are incorporated in this state and which have as their primary purpose the representation of wheat producers. The contracts must require that any trade association receiving money under this section pay from that money all dues required as a condition of the trade association's membership in any national trade association. The contracts must prohibit any trade association receiving money under this section from eliminating any dues required as a condition of membership in that trade association or from reducing such dues below the amount required for membership as of January 1, 2005.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee

Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2161
1/23/2025

A bill relating to member districts and the assessments levied by the barley council and wheat commission.

2:30 p.m. Chairman Luick opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Luick, Vice-Chair Myrdal, Senator Marcellais, Senator Weston, Senator Weber, Senator Lemm

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

2:31 p.m. Senator Weber moved a Do Pass.

2:31 p.m. Senator Myrdal seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Larry Luick	Y
Senator Janne Myrdal	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Richard Marcellais	Y
Senator Mark F. Weber	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Senator Weber will carry the bill.

2:32 p.m. Chairman Luick closed the hearing.

Audrey Oswald, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2161 ([25.0616.01000](#))

Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Luick, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2161 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2025 HOUSE AGRICULTURE

SB 2161

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture Committee
Room JW327C, State Capitol

SB 2161
3/6/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 4.1-02-03, 4.1-02-12, and 4.1-13-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to member districts and the assessments levied by the barley council and wheat commission.

2:04 p.m. Chairman Beltz opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Beltz, Vice Chairman Hauck, Representatives Anderson, Dobervich, Henderson, Holle, Hoverson, Kiefert, Nehring, Olson, Rios, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, Vollmer

Discussion Topics:

- Procedures for vacancies
- Export marketing programs
- Pesticide regulation
- Variable rate technology

2:04 p.m. Senator Greg Kessel, District 39, Belfield, ND, introduced, testified and submitted testimony #39070.

2:12 p.m. Nathan Boll, Board Chairman, ND Barley Council, testified in favor and submitted testimony #39112.

2:14 p.m. Scott Huso, Commissioner, Board member, ND Wheat Commission, testified in favor and submitted testimony #39171.

2:22 p.m. Mark Birdsall, Vice Chairman, ND Wheat Commission, testified in favor and submitted testimony #39173.

2:23 p.m. Neal Fisher, Administrator, ND Wheat Commission, testified in favor.

2:33 p.m. Sarah EH Lovas, Director, ND Grain Growers Association, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38804.

2:39 p.m. Alyssa Glass, Executive Director, US Durum Growers Association, testified in favor and submitted testimony #39005.

2:41 p.m. Rachel Gross, ND Farm Bureau, testified in favor.

2:42 p.m. Chairman Beltz closed the meeting.

Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk



North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Favor of
SB 2161
March 6, 2025

Chair Beltz and fellow members of the House Agriculture Committee, My name is Sarah Hall Lovas and I currently serve as a director on the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. Today, I come in front of your committee representing the North Dakota Grain Growers Association in strong support of SB2161 and ask you to support this bill as well.

SB2161 makes three key modifications:

- 1) It refines the structure and election process of the North Dakota Barley Council to ensure continued leadership by active and qualified producers. In particular, these key provisions are beneficial to our industry:
 - a. Ensuring proper representation: The bill clarifies that council members must be active producers in the district they represent, strengthening direct representation for farmers at the decision-making level.
 - b. Flexibility in filling vacancies: If there are no eligible producers available in a specific district, the council can appoint a qualified producer from another district to ensure uninterrupted leadership and continuity in the council's efforts.
 - c. Term limits and leadership developments: by setting a three-term limit for elected members, while allowing temporary appointments, SB 2161 encourages new leadership while maintaining institutional knowledge.
- 2) It increases the barley checkoff assessment from 20 to 30 mills per bushel. This modest increase will provide critical funding for research, market development, and promotion efforts that benefit all barley growers in North Dakota.
- 3) Similarly, it raises the wheat checkoff from 15 to 20 mills per bushel. These additional resources will support vital programs for our wheat industry.

These assessment increases are the first in many years for both crops. They reflect the rising costs of conducting impactful research and market development work. The additional funding will allow our state's barley and wheat commissions to expand their efforts in developing new varieties, improving crop quality, exploring new markets, and promoting our products both domestically and internationally.

As farmers, we understand the importance of investing in the future of our industry. These checkoff programs have a proven track record of delivering value back to producers through their various initiatives. The proposed increases will ensure this important work can continue and expand to meet the evolving needs of our industry.

Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association respectfully requests your support for Senate Bill 2161 as the bill is proposed. This legislation will strengthen the ability of our barley and wheat commissions to serve North Dakota producers and enhance the competitiveness of these vital crops.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Sarah Lovas
North Dakota Grain Growers Director
Agronomist
Hillsboro, ND



U.S. Durum Growers Association

PROMOTING THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF DURUM AND SEMOLINA

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Testimony of Alyssa Glass
Executive Director
SB 2161
March 6, 2025

Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture Committee, my name is Alyssa Glass, and I'm the Executive Director of the U.S. Durum Growers Association (USDGA). On behalf of the USDGA, we support SB 2161 for the importance of sustaining and growing the wheat industry through the vital role North Dakota Wheat Commission (NDWC) plays in research and marketing of North Dakota wheat.

USDGA has served to promote the production and marketing of durum wheat and semolina since 1978. The association represents grower and industry members from 10 states. We have many members from North Dakota as the acres produced in the state account for just over half of the country's durum production. Due to durum's hardness, density, high protein, and color it is milled into semolina which is ideal for use in premium pasta.

SB 2161 increases the wheat assessment from the rate of 15 mills per bushel to 20 mills per bushel, which at a dollar amount would amount to \$0.02. This assessment has not risen since 2005, making it below current inflation for daily operation of vital programs, as well as below other state assessment rates. USDGA supports aligning with these other state assessments as we see other states that produce durum at a higher rate such as Montana at 25 mills per bushel.

Additionally, as North Dakota continues to be a leading state in wheat production, it's vital to the sustainability of the industry to further invest in research and domestic and international marketing to maintain competitiveness in an increasingly competitive market. It's critical to the industry's future to increase communication and public education on the process of assessments, the production of wheat to the next generation, as well as increasing producer education for more profitable production through new research and educational opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to present USDGA's support for SB 2161. USDGA believes an assessment increase will support the future of wheat production by furthering research, expanding in an increasing competitive market, communicating the importance of wheat to various audiences, and aligning with other wheat checkoffs.

**Testimony of Senator Greg Kessel
District 39
In Favor of SB 2161
House Agriculture Committee
March 6, 2025**

Chairman Beltz, members of the House Agriculture Committee; for the record my name is Senator Greg Kessel. I am a family farmer from Belfield, North Dakota and I also represent District 39 in the North Dakota Senate.

As a strong advocate for the agricultural community, I am proud to support **Senate Bill No. 2161**, which seeks to make meaningful enhancements to the representation and funding mechanisms for the North Dakota Barley Council and Wheat Commission. This bill addresses critical needs in governance and resource allocation, ensuring that the interests of our state's barley and wheat producers are protected and advanced.

Key Highlights of Senate Bill No. 2161

1. Strengthening Representation for Producers

SB 2161 introduces a practical solution to challenges in electing district representatives by allowing for the appointment of at-large representatives when necessary. This ensures all producers, regardless of district participation levels, have a voice on the council and commission, promoting fairness and inclusivity across the state.

2. Increased Funding to Support Industry Growth

The proposed adjustment in assessment rates—from 20 to 30 mills per bushel for barley and 15 to 20 mills per bushel for wheat—is a necessary step to provide additional funding for the council and commission. These funds will be invested in key initiatives, including:

- Research and development to improve crop yields and sustainability.
- Marketing efforts to enhance the competitiveness of North Dakota's barley and wheat in global markets.
- Educational programs to support producers with the latest innovations and market trends.

3. Ensuring Stability and Long-Term Leadership

By establishing clear procedures for filling vacancies and limiting terms to encourage new participation, SB 2161 ensures continuity while fostering fresh perspectives in leadership. This balance is critical to adapt to the evolving agricultural landscape.

Why This Matters

North Dakota's barley and wheat producers are the backbone of our state's agricultural economy. SB 2161 is a proactive measure that not only ensures effective representation but also secures the financial resources necessary for the continued success and competitiveness of these vital industries. It reflects our commitment to fostering innovation, expanding market opportunities, and supporting the hardworking producers who sustain our communities and economy.

I encourage my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly to join me in supporting Senate Bill No. 2161 for the benefit of North Dakota's agricultural future.

**North Dakota Barley Council
Testimony for SB 2161
North Dakota House Agriculture Committee**

March 6, 2025

Mr. Chairman, members of the House Agriculture Committee, for the record my name is Nathan Boll. I farm near Newburg, ND, and currently serve as chairman of the North Dakota Barley Council.

I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2161.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, North Dakota is one of the top three barley producing states, accounting for approximately 25% to 30% of U. S. production. In order to keep barley agronomically viable and economically profitable for North Dakota barley growers, it is important that we continue to invest in supporting research and development, market development, and risk management education. Advancements in variety development in many crops are allowing growers to achieve higher yields, improved quality, and more consistent profits. Increasing the barley check-off from the current level of two cents per bushel to three cents per bushel represents the foundation of funding necessary to enhance and expand research, development, market development, education, and related efforts.

The Barley Council vetted the proposed check off increase with our county reps in December 2024. Our county reps voted unanimously to support an increase in the barley check-off.

Attached to this testimony is background information related to the barley check-off.

On behalf of the barley growers, thank you for your consideration and support of SB 2161. If you have questions, please let us know.

ND BARLEY COUNCIL – CHECK-OFF INCREASE TALKING POINTS – MARCH 2025

- Check-Off Information
 - Current Check-Off: \$0.02 per bushel
 - Proposed Check-Off: \$0.03 per bushel (increase of \$0.01 per bushel)
 - Last increase: 2009
- Farm Impact
 - Number of farms producing barley in North Dakota: 1,627 (source: USDA Census of Ag – 2022).
 - Average barley acres per farm: approximately 350
 - Average number of bushels produced per farm: approximately 22,655
 - Average cost of check-off per farm:
 - At \$0.02 per bushel: approximately \$450.00 per year.
 - At \$0.03 per bushel: approximately \$680.00 per year (increase of approximately \$230.00 per year).
 - Average cost of check-off per acre:
 - At \$0.02 per bushel: approximately \$1.30 per acre.
 - At \$0.03 per bushel: approximately \$1.95 per acre (increase of approximately \$0.65 per acre).
- Revenue
 - Revenue generated (based upon a three year average of 29 million bushels assessed)
 - At \$0.02 per bushel: approximately \$580,000.00 per year (\$1,160,000.00 per biennium)
 - At \$0.03 per bushel: approximately \$870,000.00 per year (\$1,740,000.00 per biennium)
 - The increase of \$0.01 per bushel generates approximately \$290,000.00 per year, or \$580,000.00 per biennium.
- Expenditures
 - Current expenditures at \$0.02 per bushel: approximately \$600,000.00 to \$700,000.00 per year (\$1.2 million to \$1.4 million per biennium).
 - Anticipated expenditures at \$0.03 per bushel: approximately \$750,000 to \$800,000.00 per year (\$1.5 million to \$1.6 million per biennium).
- Approximate Allocation of Barley Check-Off Dollars
 - Farm Policy: 29% (NBGA, NDGGA, farm program servicing, crop insurance).
 - Market Development: 19% (U. S. Grains Council, procurement education, trade team servicing).
 - Research and Development: 34% (NDSU barley breeding and planting pathology, USDA-ARS).
 - Administration and Overhead: 18% (salaries, benefits, stipends, office rent, general activities).
- Utilization of Additional Check-Off Dollars
 - Keep pace with increasing costs in each category of revenue allocation.
 - Maintain barley as an agronomically viable and economic profitable crop for North Dakota growers.
- Barley Production Trends

NORTH DAKOTA BARLEY PRODUCTION TRENDS						
DATA SOURCE: USDA-NASS						
STATE	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Area planted (acres)	580,000	530,000	580,000	740,000	690,000	370,000
Area harvested (acres)	445,000	460,000	430,000	650,000	570,000	285,000
Production (bushels)	32,040,000	28,980,000	21,930,000	47,450,000	40,470,000	21,090,000

BARLEY CHECK-OFF DOLLARS – AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

Investment: the barley check-off in North Dakota is \$0.02 per bushel. Studies show that for every barley check-off dollar (\$1.00) invested, over seven dollars (\$7.00) are returned to the benefit of the grower (reference available upon request). The North Dakota Barley Council invests check-off dollars in a number of research projects and alliances that promote barley utilization and support barley producers.

Variety Development and Crop Management: developing barley varieties for the future requires consistent support of agricultural research in barley breeding, genetics, pathology, and quality. The Barley Council invests check-off dollars for: 1) barley variety development at NDSU to produce varieties that are agronomically viable and economically profitable; 2) barley pathology research at NDSU and USDA-ARS to develop disease resistant varieties and manage diseases; 3) agronomic trials at ND Ag Experiment Stations to enhance production tools; 4) barley malt quality research at NDSU to ascertain barley varieties meet the needs of both barley producers and buyers. The Barley Council also works with the National Barley Improvement Committee (NBIC) as well as the U. S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative (USWBSI) to generate federal research funding for barley research.

Market Development: North Dakota barley production is largely sold into malting and brewing markets (approximately 75%) as well as pet food markets (approximately 25%). The Barley Council maintains a strong alliance with U. S. Grains Council to develop export markets for malting barley, with Mexico serving as the primary target market. The Barley Council also works with domestic buyers of barley in both malting and pet food applications.

Farm Policy: The Barley Council supports farm policy development through the National Barley Growers Association and the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. This helps to keep barley viable in the farm bill. This also includes monitoring environmental regulations in an effort to prevent unnecessary regulatory burdens on growers.

Crop Insurance: The Barley Council coordinated development of a new crop insurance product (Malting Barley Endorsement) to provide barley producers with an additional risk management tool. Development of this product included USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA), malting industry barley buyers, and private insurance developers.

Procurement Education: The Barley Council recognizes many buyers do not have a background in production agriculture, which presents challenges in communication between buyers and barley producers. The Barley Council supports research at North Dakota State University Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics to measure the risks of producing malting barley in comparison with wheat, corn, soybeans, and canola. This results in improved communication between buyers and barley producers as it provides buyers with a comprehensive review of crop enterprise decision making at the farm level. This has assisted in enhancing malting barley contract programs.





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**Testimony on SB 2161
House Agriculture Committee
Thursday, March 6, 2025**

Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture Committee, it is my pleasure to be with you today. Good morning, my name is Scott Huso, Board Member of the North Dakota Wheat Commission, and proud wheat farmer from Aneta, North Dakota. Not only am I a proud wheat farmer, I'm proud to be part of an industry that has provided a backbone for North Dakota since my ancestors settled here in 1883. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 2161.

The North Dakota Wheat Commission Board unanimously supports this 5 mill increase in the wheat check-off. There are many opportunities for wheat moving forward and we want to be in a position to be able to fund those opportunities for North Dakota producers. At our recent Annual meeting of county representatives, we also discussed an increase in the wheat check-off, and there was overwhelming support to pursue an increase. During the process of consideration, I gained a great education on the work that is involved in moving this proposal forward and the positive effects that the check-off provides.

It was very interesting for me to learn that the current check-off amount of 15 mills (1 ½ cents per bushel) was established 20 years ago, in 2005. Many major accomplishments have taken place through the North Dakota Wheat Commission because of that investment. Research at North Dakota State University – both wheat breeding and many other facets of wheat production; International promotion of the highest quality classes of wheat in the world – hard red spring wheat, and durum – to customers that are willing to pay a premium for our wheat; Domestic promotion through wheat quality tours and interaction with customer mills and bakeries; Education for purchasers through courses hosted at Northern Crops Institute and Wheat Marketing Center; and education for consumers regarding the positive impacts that a wheat-related diet can have on their life and the role that modern agriculture plays in producing the food they purchase. Most importantly, the Commission helps educate farmers about how the high-quality wheat that they raise is demanded by millers, bakers, and pasta producers throughout the world.

The North Dakota Wheat Commission has an obligation to provide access for North Dakota wheat farmers to obtain current and developing markets. And since 2005, the cost of achieving those goals has continued to increase, while competition has not decreased. Therefore, I'm supporting the 5 mill increase (one-half cent per bushel) of the wheat check-off.

In recent years, North Dakota has seen wheat acres decline but our overall production has remained high because of record yields. However, the North Dakota Wheat Commission is seeing it's ending balance each year drop – with a much larger drop expected in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. As a Board, we feel it is good fiscal policy to maintain adequate levels of reserves to ensure funding for core programs can continue, even in the face of years of significantly lower yields or planted acres.

With an increased check-off, I believe that the North Dakota Wheat Commission will have the ability to achieve more goals on behalf of the North Dakota wheat farmer.

Here are just a couple of examples that I've noticed. I sit on the Board for the Wheat Marketing Center in Portland, Oregon. Last February members of our North Dakota Wheat Commission took a trip to Portland to tour the WMC office and other related businesses in the area. We went to several businesses, including pasta processing, a tugboat company, a bakery with a retail location, and a visit to Dave's Killer Bread – a very successful bread bakery in Portland. It turns out that Dave's Killer Bread uses Canadian spring wheat flour as their main ingredient. I was shocked to see that – especially for as popular as they are throughout that region. We need to fix that with more focus on domestic promotion of our high-quality flour.

In November of 2022, I was part of a delegation through US Wheat Associates that visited three different cities in Southeast Asia to promote three different classes of wheat – Bangkok, Jakarta, and Manila. My role was the farmer of hard red spring wheat. Our audience in each location was millers and bakers from that region. For each class of wheat, we would present on production, quality, supply and demand, and the perspective of the farmer. During each presentation, the crowd was very interested to hear how dedicated the farmer is to produce a high-quality wheat seed to produce high quality flour. The area in SE Asia is critical to the development of the international market for our hard-red spring wheat. We need to continue to educate international buyers about the effort that is used to create high quality hard red spring wheat.

I have recognized that we need to do a better job of educating wheat farmers on the importance of quality in the equation that they use to select wheat varieties. We are already seeing wheat merchandising companies contract production for specific varieties. This is not going to slow down, and farmers need to be ready to adapt to this potential new format for raising different types of wheat.

Finally, my hometown of Aneta is fortunate to still have a café. I'm a reliable customer of the café. Several years ago, I ordered breakfast there: two eggs with white toast and a coffee. The daughter of the owner wrote down my order and took it to the grill so that her mother could prepare the meal. While there she asked her mom, "what's the difference between white and wheat bread?" Her mom told her that white bread is made with wheat that was sprayed with a chemical that bleaches out the color in the kernels which results in the lighter colored flour. I stood up right away and shared with both of them that white bread is the result of the removing the bran and germ layers of the wheat kernel during the milling process. That is what causes the lighter color. The mother told me that she thought it was caused by chemical but was happy to know that it was a mechanical method that resulted in white bread. That experience showed me that we need to do a better job of educating our end product consumers about the healthy characteristics of hard-red spring wheat flour.

Things within this part of the agricultural industry are changing, and the North Dakota Wheat Commission wants to continue our role as a leader in the wheat industry.

Thank you for your time this morning and I urge you to support SB 2161 in its current form. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.



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Testimony of SB 2161
House Agriculture Committee
Thursday, March 6, 2025

Chairman Beltz, members of the House Agriculture Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

My name is Mark Birdsall. I am a farmer from NW North Dakota and a board member serving on the ND Wheat Commission. I am here to testify in favor of Senate Bill 2161, we are seeking a wheat checkoff increase from 15 mills or 1 ½ cents per bushel to 20 mills or 2 cents per bushel.

The ND Wheat Commission is a producer directed and producer funded organization whose mission and purpose is to promote the wheat industry, help create market opportunities and improve the wellbeing of ND wheat and durum producers.

That is a short paragraph that explains what we do and why we do it, but I would like to take a little time to explain how it gets done.

Our budget is split up into several pieces, one being research. Research is 37% of our budget. We just finished our research granting meeting in Fargo. We had the privilege to listen to over 45 different research projects from researchers at NDSU. All are wheat and durum related projects that ultimately help keep ND producers in business. There is a host of projects ranging from variety breeding, disease studies, pest control, wheat quality and marketing to name a few.

We had requests of close to \$1.5 million. All were great studies and we were able to fund a large portion of them again this year. All of our commissioners are active farmers so having input into funding research projects from a grower's perspective helps keep research relevant and is critical to ND producers and the ND economy.

Research is a growing need. We now see different areas of interest from producers, including drone technology, targeted applications, zone applications of crop nutrition and crop protection, biologicals, cover crops, and soil health, and many more new technologies being developed. Most of these didn't even exist 10 years ago. Along with all of these new technologies come a host of questions from producers on return of investment, application techniques, and comparison analysis. All of these questions are best answered from independent research and trials obtained at our Land Grant University.

Another huge part of research is public breeding. I am personally involved in a seed and agronomy business. We work with several different private wheat breeding companies. They have made some

great strides in varieties over the past years, but we still look to NDSU spring wheat and durum public breeding programs to set the standard for a combination of yield and quality. The quality is extremely important to maintain our premium in the domestic and overseas market. Our Land Grant University also provides many independent variety trials across our state for variety comparison that others can't match. These programs continue to cost more each year because of inflationary increases, more testing locations, travel expenses, more varieties, and an increase in testing variables. All of these bring added costs.

Another area of great importance is international marketing. This makes up 31% of our budget. More than 50% of ND spring wheat finds its home in international markets. So, export market development remains one of the top priorities for check off investment. This investment is targeting export marketing programs in cooperation with US Wheat Associates. US Wheat Associates has a partnership with 17 states. I currently serve as a board member on US Wheat and have a voice in helping to develop and maintain market relationships in more than 60 regular customer countries.

Another key effort for ND Wheat Commission is domestic promotion. Fifty percent of our wheat is consumed domestically, but as we have witnessed, it is not something to take for granted. Fad diets that eliminate some wheat food consumption, misinformation on wheat breeding and production practices, consumer perceptions about chemical use in farming, perceptions of GMO's and food issues are topics we are constantly battling and have affected wheat consumption over the years.

Commission efforts to educate consumers is done on a collaborative basis with national organizations such as the National Pasta Association and the Wheat Foods Council. Having been to several National Pasta Association meetings, you quickly find yourself outnumbered by industry, but you definitely have their interest when you talk about real world experience on the farm with responsible and safe crop production that produces healthy wholesome foods. This effort on domestic promotion is also one of the areas the commission and our producer constituents feel could use more focus.

An increase in the checkoff would help amplify these efforts and promote our wheat production practices in a positive light with consumers, especially those with little knowledge of farming. We have a great story in agriculture to tell, we just always need a bigger effort to tell it.

In closing, I think it is important for you to know we as a board have spent considerable time analyzing and discussing the choice to ask for a ½ cent increase. We have over 93% of ND wheat producers supporting the ND Wheat Commission currently. We are also fortunate to have a great grass roots resource with our 47 county representatives across our state. These county reps overwhelmingly supported the checkoff increase, as well as unanimous support from our board of commissioners. We have been at the same rate of 1½ cents per bushel for the past 20 years. The increase of ½ cent per bushel is needed to keep up with new demands for research, inflationary costs, and the increasing need to promote and defend our product and producers daily.

I strongly urge and would appreciate your support of SB 2161. Thank you so very much for your time this afternoon. I would be happy to try and answer any questions at this time.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture Committee Room JW327C, State Capitol

SB 2161
3/7/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 4.1-02-03, 4.1-02-12, and 4.1-13-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to member districts and the assessments levied by the barley council and wheat commission.

8:50 a.m. Chairman Beltz opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Beltz, Vice Chairman Hauck, Representatives Anderson, Dobervich, Henderson, Holle, Hoverson, Kiefert, Nehring, Olson, Rios, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, Vollmer

Discussion Topics:

- Deficit spending
- Exports

8:50 a.m. Representative Vollmer moved Do Pass.

8:50 a.m. Representative Hauck seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Karen A. Anderson	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Donna Henderson	N
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Jeff Hoverson	N
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Dennis Nehring	Y
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Nico Rios	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Daniel R. Vollmer	Y

Motion passed 12-2-0.

8:53 a.m. Representative Vollmer will carry the bill.

8:53 p.m. Chairman Beltz closed the meeting.

Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2161 ([25.0616.01000](#))

Agriculture Committee (Rep. Beltz, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2161 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.