

2-5-21

HB #1487

Chairman Johnson, distinguished members of the House Ag Committee:

My name is Allen Lund. My wife and I own and operate a cow/calf ranch near Selfridge, ND.

I rise in favor of House Bill 1487.

To say the least; I was very disappointed when the North Dakota Beef Checkoff was enacted, during the 2015 Legislative Session. No questions were answered as to how and where the money would be spent. According to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's annual reports; the North Dakota Beef Commission has sent them over 2.3 million dollars in the last 5 years. When our state's beef checkoff was enacted in 2015, there were only seven other states in the U.S. that had a separate State Beef Checkoff. Last year North Dakota's Beef Commission gave the National Cattlemen's Beef Association \$738,642.00 or over 122 thousand dollars more than the other seven states combined.

During the 2015 Legislative assembly; a restaurant owner testified in favor of the new proposed checkoff. He stated that beef was going up so fast that he couldn't raise his menu prices fast enough and might have to quit beef and just sell chicken and fish. I thought "huh". Don't know if it's just a coincidence, but cattle prices have declined every year since. Another gentleman was asked why the producers shouldn't vote on the additional checkoff and replied "we don't want to put the cattle producers through the hassle of having to vote". Again "huh".

A good analogy for this checkoff would be charging a fee to family grocery stores in Bismarck for promoting food and turning the money over to Walmart.

I ask for your support on HB 1487.

Make this a true voluntary checkoff where producers pay in at their own discretion.

Who knows; maybe I will even pay in.

Thanks,

Questions?

