

HB 1487

Chairman Johnson and members of the House Agriculture Committee,
I am Jack Nagel. I am a semi-retired farmer/rancher from District 28. I am also a Farmers Union Member and since 2015 have been a Director for the Independent Beef Association of North Dakota (I-BAND)

I am testifying in support of HB 1487.

In 2015 the bill was introduced to increase the beef checkoff by \$1.00. Testimony by the North Dakota Stockmens Association was that 3 out of 4 US and ND cattle producers were in favor of the beef checkoff. Since I opposed the bill, I phoned a Director of the I-BAND organization to see what I could do to help defeat this bill. I was told to call area cattle producers and have them call the Senator Ag Committee before the next day. That night I made 18 random phone calls (I had no idea of what producers thought). Of those 18 calls 16 were against the increase in the checkoff and 8 of those 16 stated they would like their first dollar back. How that equates to 75% being in favor of the checkoff is different math than I learned.

I am currently helping the South Dakota Livestock Marketing Association circulate a petition to give the U.S. cattle producers the chance to have a referendum or vote on the \$1.00 mandatory beef checkoff (the first dollar). I have turned in 16 pages of signatures and I picked these up in 3-4 days last week. I can honestly say, I had no idea of the overwhelming support for having a vote on the beef checkoff and also the complete lack of support for the beef checkoff, the way it is run now. In a fiscal review put out by Ms. Bateman, she twice states, if their bill passes there probably would be very little or no participation. Incidentally, the 2 people in 2015 who were in favor of increasing the checkoff have signed this petition.

I would ask, when you make your decision on this bill, you would carefully consider what the vast majority of producers feel about this bill.

Finally, I would like for you to ask the North Dakota Stockmens Association why, if there is such overwhelming support for the checkoff, why they do not want a producer vote.

With that said, I would like to thank you for your time and the service you are providing to this state. If you have any questions, I would be happy to attempt to answer them.