



**Testimony of Clark Price
On behalf of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association
February 5, 2021
In Opposition of HB 1487**

Good morning Chairman Johnson and members of the House Agriculture Committee. My name is Clark Price, and I am the vice-chairman for the North Dakota Corn Growers Association and a farmer and rancher from Washburn, ND.

In full disclosure I also serve on the North Dakota Beef Commission as an ex-officio (non-voting) member as well as the federation of state beef councils beef promotion operating committee which allocates the national beef checkoff to contractors for research, promotion, education and communication. But please know that I am here today as producer of crops and livestock as well as a representative of North Dakota Corn Growers association, not representing any part of the beef check off.

I'm speaking in opposition today to HB 1487. The beef check-off is a bargain, with a tremendous return on investment. The promotion, research, education, market development and exports funded by our states commodity check offs make tremendous strides in advancing our state's ag products. These self-promotion programs are essential to promoting the products that we produce.

We couldn't do the things that need to be done on an individual basis, we have to work collaboratively to accomplish the things that our industry's need. They are efficiently administered and provide our producers with more "bang for your buck," than every man for themselves.

All the state checkoffs are refundable upon request, so essentially this already makes them voluntary. Even those who get refunds are greatly benefiting from the check-off investments. It's a windfall for them because the results are a stronger market for their products, increased exports, research results that make them more profitable, and the list goes on and on. I ask for your "do not pass" vote and am happy to answer any questions. Thank you.