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Jo Costa Richardson
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10/16/83
Date

2003 HOUSE AGRICULTURE

HB 1429

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Salvatore Riccardi
Operator's Signature

10/16/03
Date

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1429

House Agriculture Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1--30--03

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
ONE	A		38 TO END
ONE	B		00 TO 25.8
Committee Clerk Signature <i>William D. Elson</i>			

Minutes:

CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS: Committee Members, we will open the hearing on HB 1429.

REPRESENTATIVE SKARPHOL: Dist. 2, Tioga, ND

From my perspective this bill is about perception. I believe the State Seed Commission has done an excellent job of with the seed industry in North Dakota. With regard to small grains, cereal grains, oil seeds, specialty crops but in the process there has no real pertinent reason with regard to forage legumes. They just have not been concerned about it because there was not an industry that had a need for any type certification process. I say this because of an industry that we have in our community developing. At this time in North Dakota there is a need for what is being proposed. I am proposing a mechanism that I think will work. I don't see it to burdonsom. I don't anticipate that it will meet with the regularity, frequency that the State Beef Commission dose but I do see it as a different perspective on who should be involved in establishing these standards. I am not hung up in the Section 4. What I would

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like to see to replace Section 4 for the sake of the people are going to be doing business with this industry is a very good description on alfalfa or forage legumes of the weed contents.

By that I mean the level of wheat content and specifically what weeds are in there. I think it is important that the producers of this product have the opportunity to decide whether or not they want to put specific weed seeds that is in that bag on there soil. That is important in this process.

I would like to see breeders involved in this. Seed producers are important to have a voice in this, seed producers seed growers and the processors are important in this. When the certified Seed program began to proliferate there were practices in Agriculture that a lot of us at this stage of the game would laugh at. People grew what they anticipated to be certified seed. In this case there is a different need and we need weed free. The other amendment the changes that I recommend. {{please read amendment.}} North Dakota standards are lower then surrounding states. I don't think that is acceptable.

SENATOR NICHOLS: My support for HB 1429 comes with my concern that new industry that is beginning to look like it is going to happen. The value added part to be able to grow and sell alfalfa at a profit is something that should really be good for our area. My concern is I don't believe that we have had to worry to much about that. I know that with this new industry that they have the supply for their business. A clean product that has resulted because of good seed supplied. I hope you will look favorable on this Bill Thank you.

CHAIRMAN NICHLAS: Rep. Belter.

REP. BELTER : Why is there a need for a separate board?

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REPRESENTATIVE SKARPHOL: You are absolutely right and a developing industry can establish there standards. I think you will hear from them that they will. This whole thing is abut perception. We are not perceived as a state that would emphasis on forage production and they will get into that with much greater detail then I am capable of doing. One other comment Mr. Chairman I would like to make is that I am becoming very familiar with these folks and I really do have a great appreciation of there sincerness. They told me about people who have substantial interests in research with regard to the potential alfalfa and not only to farrago but for other uses. One of these individuals happens a person with at lot of resources and influence. He is involved in world wide policy not just national.

VICE CHAIRMAN POLLERT: With the creation of this board could the State Seed Commission tighten up what they are doing so we don't create another board.

REPRESENTATIVE POLLERT: The State Seed Commission could do it. But I will also add to that by saying that there has been pressure for a number of years for the State Seed Commission to do that and it has not happened.

CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS: Any other questions of Rep. Skarphol?

FRANK MOORE: I represent the investor group that has decided to place a significant investment in this state for a number of reasons. One of the main reasons is because this state dose not maximize one of its major potential products which is alfalfa. We have access to a world market for this product. At a very favorable price. Very few people in the state have looked at the international market. That is what we are looking at. We would like to develop perception overseas that this state takes a great interest in the quality of the product we are selling. There are a number of states that have already established this perception in Asia. In

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Asia perception is every thing. If is green it is good. We want to build alfalfa into a major crop. They don't look at many other factors that affect the value of a forage feed crop.

We have been having a lot of meetings in North Dakota. A lot of farmers would like to get into this crop.

CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS: Any other questions. We have the experts here.

MIKE ? I am the president of Harvest Seeds. I would like to touch upon a few things that we have done so far as marketing. Our plant capacity in Tioga is about two hundred thousand tons. What we do is double compress bails. Maximizing the shipping weight in sea going containers. As of right now I have one customer who is short 190 thousand tons short alone. Another who is fifty thousand tons. It is all based on perception. {{{{PLEASE SEE AMENDMENT THAT IS ATTACHED TO BILL}}}}

CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS: One question I have It was pointed out that the Senate Bill has already passed. Could the Senate Bill correct your problem. Clarify that for me. What is the Senate Bill?

MIKE? The Bill that has passed the Senate. There is the sunset on the 25 seeds per pound. This is restricted to noxious weeds in a sample That is what we have right now because of the legislation passed during the last session. We reduced it from ninety down to twenty. The sunset will be going off at the end of the biennium. We would be back to ninety seeds. This committee that met and tried to resolve some differences did not accomplish that. It is my thinking that and others that maybe 25 is where things should be then. Neither side was content as to how things could have turned out. This bill changes from 90 to 25 seeds per pound of the restricted noxious seeds.

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CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS: Dose that solve the problem?

MIKE.....? Will the Senate Bill do what this bill will do. No not totally.

CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS: My next question? Is the ND Seed Department support the Senate Bill?

MIKE.....? Yes.

REP. BELTER: I look at fiscal note Is there something that we can do because yours creates a board we need to do something with the state seed commission to save \$157,000.00 dollars. That's what I am trying to address.

REPRESENTATIVE SKARPHOL: We have all heard the phrase. Fiscal Notes.

This proposal is not to replace the State Seed Commission. Or the current board. It is to work in tandem with them and establish us as a more reputable place to do business. That is the issue in this Bill. We don't that has been addressed adequately in the past.

CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS: TESTIMONY.

ODEEN FOSTER TIOGA ND. I'd like to see bill passed. I would like to see that this industry could succeed and it can with the experts at NDSU and the State Seed Department. They will be very helpful in overseeing this. WE NEED TO BRING THESE STANDARDS RAISED TO 25. I feel that the Senate Bill would do the job.

CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS: Opposition to the Bill.

TONY JOHANNESSEN. I am here today representing the ND STATE SEED COMMISSION.

{{{{{PLEASE SEE PRINTED TESTIMONY}}}} Line six of page two of bill was read.

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CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS: Is there questions of the Committee. Sir I just have one for you.

In light of the fact that one of your commissioners resigned and you are saying this could have been resolved. Why was this not resolved internally before it gets here in the form of a bill?

TONY JOHANNESSEN: I did not know until a couple of days ago that he resigned. I think he made reference to a motion he made for this 25 seeds per pound and it died for lack of a motion. A lot of it was we had working group trying to figure this out. No one came up with a solution. No one came up with a number. It died for lack of second probable because lack of impute from this working group.

CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS: Do you envision the Senate Bill as resolving the problem.

REPRESENTATIVE BELTER. Are the standards going to be so high that those of us in the livestock industry that seed almost becomes unaffordable. Alfalfa seed now is extremely expensive.

TONY JOHANNSON: Yes that is one of our concerns. The State Seed Department now has several quality assurance programs that they work with. I think one of them is Pioneer Seeds. For Soy Bean production where by they go out and they have higher standards then the State of ND does for field inspections. It is all dot on Pioneers specifications. What they determine. The can get the same thing done through one of these quality assurance programs and I think the State Seed Department would work with them. As to there particular segment of the industry.

STEVE STREGE. We oppose. The Bill. My board says why do we need this. Why do we have to establish another agency.

JERRY KNUTSON: With the ND Agriculture Commissioner. We oppose the bill.

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CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS: WE WILL CLOSE ON HB 1429

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