

**2023 HOUSE AGRICULTURE**

**HB 1471**

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Agriculture Committee**  
Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB 1471  
2/9/2023

Relating to a food insecurity task force; and to provide for a report to the legislative management.
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Chairman Thomas call the meeting to order 9:16 AM

Members present: Chairman Thomas, Representative Beltz, Christy, Finley-DeVille, Fisher, Headland, Henderson, Kiefert, Olson, Prichard, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, VanWinkle.

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Hunger Coalition
- Environmental issues
- Farm to table
- Policy source
- Resources
- Regional members
- Collaborative
- Supply chain

## **In favor:**

Representative LaurieBeth Hager, District 21, Fargo, #20192

Deb Egeland, Lobbyist for Independent Beef Association of ND (IBAND), #20153

Melissa Sobolik, CEO Great Plains Food Bank, #19572, #20339

Heather Gades, Miss Bonanzaville, Titleholder Miss America Organization, contestant for Miss North Dakota, #20066

Christina Sambor, Legislative Coordinator, ND Coalition for Homeless People, Youthworks, #20276

Karen Ehrens, Past coordinator, Creating a Hunger Free ND Coalition, #20369

## **Neutral:**

Nathan Davis, Commissioner, ND Indian Affairs Commission (no written testimony)

## **Additional written testimony:**

Elizabeth Pihlaja, Operations Director, Foundation for a Healthy ND, #20057

Mark Fox, Chairman of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation (MHA), #20338

Chairman Thomas adjourned the hearing 10:07 AM

*Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Agriculture Committee**  
Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB 1471  
2/10/2023

Relating to a food insecurity task force; and to provide for a report to the legislative management.
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Chairman Thomas call the meeting to order 2:10 PM

Members present: Chairman Thomas, Vice Chairman Beltz, Representatives Christy, Finley-DeVile, Fisher, Headland, Henderson, Kiefert, Olson, Prichard, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, VanWinkle.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Representative Henderson moved a do not pass.  
Representative VanWinkle seconded.

Roll call vote:

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Paul J. Thomas	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Josh Christy	N
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVile	N
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Craig Headland	Y
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Brandon Prichard	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y

Motion passed 11-2-0

Representative Prichard will carry the bill.

Chairman Thomas adjourned the hearing 2:12 PM

*Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1471: Agriculture Committee (Rep. Thomas, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (11 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1471 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**TESTIMONY**

**HB 1471**

Good morning, Chairman Thomas and members of the Ag Committee, I am Melissa Sobolik the CEO of the Great Plains Food Bank. And I'm here to support HB 1471, the creation of a Food Insecurity task Force.

The Great Plains Food Bank serves as the state's only food bank and the largest hunger relief organization in ND. Our role in the hunger relief pipeline is unique. Our traditional role is to recover surplus food that would go to waste and get it into the hands of those who need it. We identify that product, bring it into our warehouse, put it on an online shopping list and nearly 200 food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters in every county order the product and we deliver it to their door every month. We also fill the gaps in service with our innovative, direct service programs like the Mobile Food Pantry, Backpack Program or Senior Food Pack Program.

Last year alone we distributed 10 million meals to 1 in 6 North Dakotans through this strong and diverse charitable hunger relief network. That's over 138,000 of our neighbors who needed food assistance last year; the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest year in our organization's 40 year history.

Our mission is to **End Hunger Together** and our vision is a hunger-free North Dakota. We have an audacious goal to cut the food insecurity rate in North Dakota from its current 7.7% to 5% by 2030. We have a robust strategic plan made of 3 bold pillars to help us achieve that; **Ending Hunger TODAY, Ending Hunger TOMORROW** and **Ending Hunger FOR GOOD**.

As the largest hunger relief organization in the state, we partner with 200 other hunger relief organizations, founded and lead the Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota Coalition and the Cass Clay Hunger Coalition, hold the state's SNAP outreach contract, and have the honor to serve over 138,000 North Dakotans. Our strategic plan, goal, vision and mission are intricately linked to the proposed work of the Food Insecurity Task Force.

We applaud and support HB 1471. If we have learned anything, it's that we as a food bank alone, we won't food bank our way out of hunger. Our charitable hunger relief network alone won't solve hunger. It takes a movement of people, organizations, public and private entities working in concert with each other to end hunger. And we'll only accomplish it together. And this Food Insecurity Task Force is an important first step.

The Great Plains Food Bank offers our service, expertise and knowledge to help advance the proposed task force. Instead of re-creating a plan or efforts to end hunger

in ND, we welcome the opportunity to share our work plan, built on local and state data, national best practices and guided by the input of those we serve.

I hope you'll vote favorably on creating a Statewide Food Insecurity Taskforce that will be a big, bold step forward in helping to end hunger in North Dakota.

Thank you.



**HB 1471**  
**House Agriculture Committee**  
**February 9, 2023 | 8:30 am**

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Good afternoon, Chairman Thomas and members of the House Agriculture Committee. My name is Elizabeth Pihlaja and I am the Operations Director of the Foundation for a Healthy North Dakota. I am providing written testimony on behalf of the Foundation in support of HB 1471.

This bill would create a food insecurity task force to develop a plan to address food insecurity in North Dakota.

The Foundation for a Healthy North Dakota believes that food insecurity and hunger are major barriers to full, healthy lives. While there are existing programs to support North Dakotans experiencing hunger, many families and individuals do not qualify for assistance and struggle with these expenses – especially with rising food prices. We know 1 in 12 children face hunger and nearly half of North Dakota households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) support include children.<sup>1</sup> We also see that senior citizens, especially those that live with disability or live alone, struggle with hunger and food insecurity; furthermore, nearly half of North Dakotan seniors live in poverty, putting them at substantial risk for food insecurity.<sup>2</sup>

As North Dakotans, we take pride in our compassion for one another. We keep an eye out for folks in our communities. We love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

Establishing a food insecurity task force would show a strong commitment to these “North Dakota Nice” values. Because of this, and the incredible importance of eliminating hunger in our state, the Foundation for a Healthy North Dakota urges a “Do Pass” vote on HB 1471.

Thank you for your time.

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#### References

1. Feeding America. (2023). *Hunger in North Dakota*. Retrieved January 29, 2023, from <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/north-dakota>.
2. United Health Foundation. (2022). *Food Insecurity – 60+*. America’s Health Rankings. Retrieved February 8, 2023 from [https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/senior/measure/food\\_insecurity\\_s/r/state/ND](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/senior/measure/food_insecurity_s/r/state/ND).



Chairman Thomas and Members of the Committee,

My name is Heather Gades, and I am a titleholder at the local level within the Miss America Organization and a contestant for Miss North Dakota this coming June – however, my testimony does not necessarily reflect the views of either the Miss America Organization or the Miss North Dakota Organization. My current title is Miss Bonanzaville, and as a titleholder, we each select a service initiative that we want to support and work on during our year of service. Mine is Combatting Food Insecurity – One Box at a Time, a project that is the culmination of my six years of working on this issue. I have met with food pantries in the Fargo-Moorhead area – and volunteered at a few of them, helped create the first food pantry at North Dakota State University (NDSU) called Goods for the Herd and am currently on the advisory board, attended strategy and conversational meetings, and read books to school children that talk about food insecurity, how it can happen to anyone, and who we can go to for help.

North Dakota is often called the “breadbasket” of America, for all of the wheat that we grow. Yet we have at least 13 areas in our state that are identified as having low access to food, especially food that is healthy and nutritious. These areas are called food deserts, and they are primarily in the central part of ND, though there are some parts of Eastern counties that also have food deserts. In 2022, the Great Plains Food Bank reported their most recent findings, which indicate that 1 in 6 people in ND are food insecure – which is a person having low or no food access, particularly to food high in minerals and nutrients. To clarify, a food desert is a geographical area that has low or no food access, food insecurity is a person or family that has low or no food access. The reality is that North Dakota has a food security

issue – which has only gotten worse over the last three years. Fargo’s Emergency Food Bank has been serving more families each month than they normally do around the holiday season. Great Plains Food Bank’s services are in high demand across the state. The lines at pantries stretch out the door, and the shelves run bare at many. There are so many groups and people working to end this hunger problem, but it’s hard to do it city by city or region by region.

What North Dakota really needs is for the state to take this situation seriously. One big step in tackling food insecurity and food deserts would be the creation of the taskforce suggested in HB 1471. This would bring many key people in the fight against hunger to the table to work together and make a difference for our citizens, young, old, and everyone in between. I would suggest one addition though. While the people listed for this task force are vital to be part of this, there is a lack of local community representation. I would like to see a few more people from around the state who have lived experience dealing with this issue already. Local representation is needed in matters like this. Specifically, at least one person from each region should be added to the task force. This would be only six additional people if you base the regions on geography. As for how to choose the people from each region, it should be application and interview based, so the best candidates possible are selected.

I urge the committee to give HB 1471 a “Do Pass” recommendation, with the proposed amendment, and take a major step forward in the efforts to combat food insecurity in our state.

Thank you for your time Chairman Thomas and Members of the Committee.

Heather Gades, Miss Bonanzaville 2023

1 Good morning Chairman Thomas and members of the Ag Committee. I am Deb Egeland, lobbyist for I-  
2 BAND, Independent Beef Association of ND. I'm here to support HB 1471, the creation of a Food  
3 Insecurity Task Force. You might think this is only about homeless people. It is so much more.

4 I worked in DPI for 25 years. Last school year 21/22 was the most difficult year. 100 school districts lost  
5 their food distributor, 50 lost their milk distributor and the DPI School Food Distribution manager  
6 decided not to order 3 trucks of commodity ground beef. Schools were scrambling, many were forced  
7 to order from gas station suppliers that did not carry fresh meat or produce. The Governor's Office even  
8 stepped in to offer DOT trucks to help deliver food.

9 One good thing that came out of this was Jeremy Maher, a rancher, called about the beef shortage and  
10 asked if local ranchers could sell or donate beef to schools. We started a "Beef to School" pilot in  
11 January and had 78 districts purchasing local beef by May. I also found 2 retired milkmen to help out  
12 until we could find milk suppliers for the 50 abandoned school districts.

13 This was all very random, there was no deciding whose job is this, whose fault is this. WE just got it  
14 done. I shudder to think what if I hadn't returned Jeremy's call? What if I said, "That's not my job?"

15 This state produces so much food, however, there is no coordinated effort to make sure the food is  
16 distributed where/when it is needed. We need an organized Food Insecurity Task Force with assigned  
17 partners that can jump into action as needed.

18 USDA put out grants for local foods to schools and to non-school entities last spring. Only state agencies  
19 could apply. I knew this would be good for food pantries and for ND producers. I contacted Melissa  
20 Sobolik and connected her with Kara Haff from the ND Ag Department to see what products could be  
21 purchased. Melissa told me one of the most requested products was ground beef. I don't think anyone  
22 in Ag or DPI would have known that if we did not have that random conversation, which again was not  
23 my job, I just did it and Great Plains received \$413,000 to purchase North Dakota products.

24 We need organized communication between the agencies working on feeding the people of North  
25 Dakota.

26 I-BAND will be serving fresh beef in the Great Hall on February 24. Please come and enjoy!

27 Thank you for listening. I would be happy to answer any questions.

HB 1471

Thank you Chairman Thomas and members of the Ag Committee.

I am Representative LaurieBeth Hager, from District 21 in Fargo. My district encompasses the older, original core neighborhoods of Fargo and a small portion of West Fargo. It is a few blocks north and south of Main Avenue along the railroad tracks that run through the cities. My district includes several impoverished neighborhoods and several entities that provide assistance to others.

I bring to you today, HB 1471 a bill to establish a statewide Food Insecurity Task Force that would bring together several state agencies with the mission to address Hunger and Food Insecurity issues across the state of ND and to develop strategies to combat food insecurity. The members of the Food Insecurity Task Force would include a person from Agriculture Department, the Department of Public Instruction, the Commerce Department and the Department of Health and Human Services, two members of the legislature, and two persons from nonprofit agencies.

What is the difference hunger and food insecurity? In a way hunger is that feeling at 11:45 before lunch in the cafeteria. However Food Insecurity is that feeling with you are hungry but there is nothing in the fridge or cupboards and there probably will not be anything regularly in them in the near future.

Is Hunger and Food Insecurity an issue in ND? Yes. Food Insecurity exists in all corners, all counties of our state. The people who are here to testify will provide you with specific statistics. But first I would like to share my observations and my experiences.

For the past several years, I have been involved with programs that have addressed Food Insecurity which is defined as the "limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and save food, or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways."

I supervised an AmeriCorps Vista program associated with the Prairie Roots Community Fund that addressed hunger and food insecurity issues in the Madison Neighborhood of my district which qualifies as a food desert. One of the outcomes of this project was a drive up food distribution center which became a

site for the Great Plains Food Bank. For the past 2 and a half years I have helped to distribute food to those in need. Currently about 200 families receive produce twice per month. I see their faces and hear their gratitude as they receive apples, potatoes, onions and some dairy products. Many weeks the cars line up an hour ahead of time.

I have also been involved with The Cass Clay Hunger Coalition. This is group of individuals representing various agencies and non profit organizations. The Cass Clay Hunger Coalition meets monthly to focus on specific tasks or topics, to improve strategies, to coordinate resources and efforts to meet the needs of hungry and food insecure persons and families. This Coalition sponsors a yearly Hunger Summit and conducts assessments to determine the unmet needs in the Fargo Moorhead and surrounding areas.

It is this model that is the basis for what HB 1471 is proposing to do on a statewide level: bring together state agencies and nonprofit organizations to strategically combat Food Insecurity across the state of ND.

During the Covid Pandemic of 2020-2022, there was the realization that people and families were desperately in need of food. Our state as well as others experienced food supply chain issues and cities and schools in our state were not able to get their shipments of food.

When the COVID relief moneys became available, agencies and organizations worked together and the needs of individuals and families were addressed. HB 1471 will establish a Food Insecurity Task Force to continue those efforts. The underlying conditions leading to Food Insecurity are multifaceted and a multi agency approach will enable innovate strategies to be developed to combat Food Insecurity and Hunger in our state.

On Tuesday night, Governor Burgum put out this statement, "Our farmers, ranchers, entrepreneurs, energy producers can reestablish American dominance in feeding and fueling the world." I agree and I believe that right here in ND would be the best place to start this innovated process and that a ND Task Force on Food Insecurity would be the first step.

Thank you Chairman Thomas and members of the Ag Committee. I am here to answer your questions or listen to your ideas.

**Testimony in Support of HB 1471**

***Christina Sambor***, Lobbyist No. 312 – Legislative Coordinator, North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People, Youthworks

**North Dakota House Ag Committee**

**February 9, 2023**

Chairman Thomas and members of the committee:

On behalf of the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People and Youthworks, I submit this testimony in favor of HB 1471. As advocates for families struggling with homelessness, the NDCHP and Youthworks frequently see the adverse impacts that hunger has on North Dakota children’s ability to learn and thrive. Hunger is a massive problem, hidden in plain sight. 1 in 12 North Dakotan children face hunger and 1 in 6 families sought hunger assistance. The Great Plains Food Bank has, in recent years, had near the highest numbers of people served in its 40 year history, showing that 140,000 North Dakotan were struggling with hunger in 2022. This is a clear problem that merits a direct response from the North Dakota legislature. Access to food is a fundamental need, and children don’t have the ability to acquire it for themselves. Therefore, we request a “do pass” on HB 1471.



## **MANDAN, HIDATSA & ARIKARA NATION**

Three Affiliated Tribes \* Fort Berthold Indian Reservation  
404 Frontage Road New Town, ND 58763  
Tribal Business Council

Office of the Chairman  
Mark N. Fox

### **HOUSE BILL 1471 AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 9, 2023**

#### **TESTIMONY OF MARK N. FOX, CHAIRMAN MANDAN, HIDATSA AND ARIKARA NATION**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Mark Fox, I am the Chairman of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation (MHA Nation). The MHA Nation supports House Bill 1471, a bill that creates a food insecurity task force.

The MHA Nation is currently constructing the Native Green Grow (NG2) Greenhouse Project on a 40 acre+ “Energy Property” site development and improvement area. NG2 includes a 1.36 hectare (143,350 SF) glass glazed roof, Venlo style, greenhouse with three separate growing compartments for both vine crops and nutrient-film-technique (NFT) areas; a 3,277 SF Produce Sales area offering sales of greenhouse produce along with natural products grown in the community; an Administration Experience Center; as well as, a 12,000 SF insulated metal roof warehouse for fertigation, irrigation, mixing and dry/cold storage facilities..

The NG2 project seeks to capture some of the flared gas on the Fort Berthold Reservation (Reservation) and convert it into heat and electrical power. The carbon dioxide is redirected to grow vegetable produce in a large-scale, self-contained, and climate-controlled greenhouse.

This model dramatically extends the limited North Dakota growing season because of year-round production.

NG2 will contribute to the MHA Nation's overall goals of food sovereignty and economic development by providing fresh, accessible and healthy food for our members, as well as, local and regional communities. Our produce sales and job creation expands our economic development opportunities.

We support the food insecurity task force as the task force seeks to identify areas of food insecurity while ultimately establishing economic security. Mr. Chairman, we urge a do pass of HB1471. Thank you.





# GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK



## Our Mission

End hunger together

## Our Vision

A hunger-free North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota

Reduce food insecurity rate to 5% by 2030

## Our Values



Passion



Service



Innovation

1720 3rd Ave. N., Fargo, ND 58102  
1315 S. 20th St., Bismarck, ND 58504  
(701) 232-6219  
info@greatplainsfoodbank.org  
[GreatPlainsFoodBank.org](http://GreatPlainsFoodBank.org)

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our guiding principles serve as a framework that shapes our behavior, decision-making, where we direct our resources, and our priorities with internal and external stakeholders.

### People-Centered

We design with (not for) our neighbors and partners.

### Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

We champion understanding, acceptance, and respect among our team, stakeholders, and those we serve.

### Nutrition and Food Safety

We source nutritious food and ensure food safety throughout the storage and distribution to our partner agencies and neighbors.

### Data-Driven

We collect, utilize and maintain data to understand hunger's effect on our neighbors in order to make informed decisions.

### Organizational Excellence

We advance our organization to new levels of resiliency and strength through enhanced skills, resources, efficiencies, and relationships.



### End Hunger **TODAY**

We are **doers**,  
filling immediate needs  
of our neighbors.

#### Strategies:

- **Source** nutritious and diverse food and personal care products
- **Distribute** product equitably through our direct service programs and partner feeding network
- **Connect** our neighbors living with food insecurity to community resources

#### Outcome:

Our neighbors have reliable access to food that meets their unique nutritional needs.



### End Hunger **TOMORROW**

We are **collaborators**,  
tackling the root causes  
of hunger.

#### Strategies:

- **Collect** and analyze neighbor and community needs
- **Co-create** innovative community-based solutions
- **Launch** projects that reduce poverty

#### Outcome:

Our neighbors voice their existing challenges and together, we design, implement and evaluate hunger-prevention solutions that go beyond food.



### End Hunger **FOR GOOD**

We are **builders**,  
constructing a future where  
hunger doesn't exist.

#### Strategies:

- **Educate** audiences about hunger and opportunities to take action
- **Mobilize** diverse hunger-fighting allies
- **Advocate** for inclusive and equitable policies and systems

#### Outcome:

Our neighbors not only achieve and maintain self-sufficiency, they thrive.



**GREAT PLAINS  
FOOD BANK**

**VOLUNTEER | GIVE | ADVOCATE | EDUCATE**

To follow and be a part of our mission visit us on     and [GreatPlainsFoodBank.org](https://www.GreatPlainsFoodBank.org).



# What is the GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK?



**GREAT PLAINS  
FOOD BANK**

## **MISSION:**

End hunger together.

## **VISION:**

A hunger-free North Dakota and Clay County, Minn.

## **VALUES:**

Passion, service, innovation.

The only food bank in the state of North Dakota, the Great Plains Food Bank recovers food that otherwise would go to waste from a range of food industry partners and through its programs and services distributes it to those in need throughout North Dakota and Clay County, Minn. Working with volunteers, food and financial donors, community champions and advocates, we are committed to serving the people in our region each day. With your help, we can achieve our goal of a hunger-free North Dakota and Clay County, Minn, by 2037.

- The Great Plains Food Bank functions as a food recovery and distribution center to recover food that otherwise would go to waste and distribute it to a network of more than 200 partner food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens across the region.
- Opened as the Greater Fargo-Moorhead Area Food Bank on March 22, 1983.
- On November 12, 2020, officially opened regional service center in Bismarck.
- Launched in 2017, our Ending Hunger 2.0 work is working upstream to address the root cause of hunger while helping to reduce the number of food insecure individuals.
- Thousands of volunteers enter our Fargo and Bismarck warehouses each year to pack food to be distributed through our programs and partner feeding sites.

## **What's the difference between a food bank and a food pantry?**

The Great Plains Food Bank works as a distributor to over 200 partner food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens across North Dakota and Clay County, Minn. On average, the Great Plains Food Bank supplies 80 percent of the food distributed by our food pantry network. This network provides needed food assistance to more than 10,000 households each month.



Today the food I went shopping for I was able to pick out things that I know my family will eat and I know the food is fresh. It enables us to make ends meet.”

– North Dakota pantry client

Toward the end of the month it becomes a little hectic. We try not to use the food pantry that much unless it's like it is right now. Our fridge is empty. Our dogs have food, but we don't.”

– North Dakota pantry client

Without this place, we would have gone hungry a few times.”

– North Dakota pantry client

# FOLLOW THE FOOD

How our food gets to those in need.



## Food Donors:

Each year, we recover **MILLIONS** of pound of food from the food industry, growers and other food donors

## Volunteers:

More than **2,000** volunteers repack food to be distributed.

## Food Distribution:

We operate **9 PROGRAMS** to recover and distribute food to combat hunger for children, seniors and those in rural communities.

Network of **200** partner food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens help us feed all of North Dakota and Clay County, Minn.

## Feeding Our Neighbors:

More than **100,000** individuals are served each year.

Information compiled from comprehensive Hunger in North Dakota 2018 study and Great Plains Food Bank annual review of statistics.

Ending Hunger Together: Today, Tomorrow and For Good.



**GREAT PLAINS  
FOOD BANK**

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[www.GreatPlainsFoodBank.org](http://www.GreatPlainsFoodBank.org)



## Testimony In Support of HB 1471

Karen K. Ehrens, RD, LRD  
Bismarck  
February 9, 2023

Members of the Agriculture Committee:

**Help elevate focus on, and action and resources toward ending nutrition insecurity and food insecurity in North Dakota.**

Please provide a “Do pass” recommendation to HB 1471.

I had the opportunity to coordinate the Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota Coalition from its inception in 2009 through 2021. It was a great honor to help bring together state agencies, nonprofit organizations, education, health, nutrition, labor, farming, social work, and rural-focused groups to join together on the common goal of a state without hunger. Working together can help direct resources, find common actions, and reduce duplication of effort.

State agencies do work together. But in my experience, they also sometimes work alongside one another without connecting. The proposals in this bill will help raise the coordination to the agencies’ top level, provide for working together, and assure accountability through reporting.

Please provide a “Do pass” recommendation on this bill. The state places much effort and pride in “feeding the world.” Let us also ensure that the residents of North Dakota have enough healthful food every day.