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Bismarck, ND 58505-0020  
*Equal Opportunity in Employment and Services*

**Testimony of Jeff Knudson  
ND Department of Agriculture  
HB 1150  
House Agriculture Committee  
Peace Garden Room  
January 22, 2009**

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Chairman Johnson and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am Jeff Knudson, Executive Services Program Manager for the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. I am here to support HB 1150 which would repeal chapter 4-38 of the North Dakota Century Code relating to organic foods standards.

The only remaining active sections of Chapter 4-38 require organic “certifying agents” to register as an agent with the Agriculture Commissioner. In the past, the registration requirement served a purpose in determining which certifying agents were operating in North Dakota and if those agents were properly accredited by the USDA under 7 CFR part 205 (National Organic Program).

Verifying USDA accreditation of certifying agents is now easily accomplished online via the USDA’s National Organic Program website. Any certifying agent that is not listed as accredited by USDA is ineligible to operate in North Dakota or any other state. Therefore, the remaining sections of Chapter 4-38 have become redundant and an unnecessary burden on certifying agents operating in North Dakota.

Chairman Johnson and members of the Committee, I urge a do pass on HB 1150 and would be happy to take any questions.