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**Statement from the Independent Beef Association of North Dakota Regarding HB1238**  
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The Independent Beef Association of North Dakota (I-BAND) has notified members of the North Dakota Senate Agriculture Committee that it will support passage of HB1238 as amended by District 31 Senator Don Schaible. The bill increases the mandatory beef checkoff by \$1 per head of cattle marketed in the state and Senator Schaible's amendment provides for a producer referendum on the proposed increase before the increase is implemented.

"Allowing North Dakota cattle producers to have a voice in this increase before it's implemented has always been our main concern," said I-BAND president Larry Kinev. "A producer referendum will allow ranchers to decide if this increase should move forward. The right to vote is a cornerstone of our way of life in the United States. We extend our gratitude to Senator Schaible for his work on this issue and for introducing an amendment that provides compromise while protecting producer interests. If the bill moves forward as amended, I-BAND is committed to its passage."