ndfb.org

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ND Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division
4201 Normandy Street
Bismarck, ND 58503-1324

Re: Support for Blackhawk Farms Permit Application #NDAF00916

The North Dakota Farm Bureau (NDFB) submits this comment in support of the Blackhawk Farms RE, LLP Animal Feeding Operation permit application #NDAF00916.

NDFB has long been an unwavering supporter of the growth and expansion of all livestock production in North Dakota. Our member-driven policy and grassroots public advocacy have consistently defended the ability of farm families to diversify, add value to crops, and keep the next generation on the land through responsible animal agriculture.

This family partnership involving the Bullerman and Karges families represents exactly the kind of opportunity NDFB members have sought to expand. Our members support livestock development that strengthens rural economies, creates local jobs, supports grain producers through feed demand, and provides a valuable, locally available nutrient source. The manure from facilities such as this is a proven fertilizer that improves soil health, reduces reliance on commercial fertilizers, and helps crop producers manage one of their highest and most volatile input costs.

NDFB supports this livestock project, and we urge the Department to approve this application so these families, and the surrounding agricultural community, can advance toward a better future.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Wagner

Valerie Wagner, NDFB President