



DAKOTA RESOURCE COUNCIL
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Dakota Resource Council files motion to intervene in corporate farming lawsuit, give voice to North Dakotans

BISMARCK, ND – On Monday afternoon, Dakota Resource Council (DRC) filed an intervening motion to protect North Dakota’s anti-corporate farming law, joining the North Dakota Farmers Union, which filed a request to intervene on Oct. 12. DRC’s intent is to uphold the voice of North Dakotans, who voted overwhelmingly to reject corporate farming this June by a 3-1 margin.

“This case is about the soul of agriculture. Citizens are told that their long-held values are getting in the way of progress, or that the family farm is obsolete. But the truth is just the opposite – the family farm is our future,” said Sarah Vogel, DRC member and former North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner. “It is critical for groups like DRC to intervene because they help the people who live and work here have a voice in these critical decisions about our future.”

The North Dakota Farm Bureau filed a lawsuit weeks before the statewide vote in June to repeal the entire anti-corporate farming law.

“In my view, the people spoke very clearly about the importance of keeping the anti-corporate farming law. Corporate farming will not strengthen our rural communities. We have an ideal system of family farm agriculture right here in North Dakota,” said Link Reinhiller, DRC member and a former board member of the Farm Bureau. “It’s the agriculture of the future, where food safety, food security, and good stewardship are a way of life.”

“In North Dakota, there’s a finite amount of land and resources for agricultural production. Moving production from independent farmers and ranchers to corporate control means that our finite resources go directly into the control of the corporations,” said Jeri Lynn Bakken, a DRC member and rancher in Adams County. “Under the corporate structure, long-term productivity and stewardship of land and natural resources takes a backseat to shareholders’ profits.”

Governor Dalrymple signed the repeal of the corporate farming law in 2015 but it was referred by an alliance led by North Dakota Farmers Union, of which DRC was a key partner. Voters rejected corporate farming in all 53 counties and statewide 75% to 25% on June 14, 2016. The North Dakota Farm Bureau and their corporate allies are leading the way to ignore the voters and 84 years of family farming history in the state by suing North Dakota’s anti-corporate farming law.

Dakota Resource Council is represented by Baumstark Braaten, a law firm in Bismarck. “This is a critical case regarding states’ rights, not only for North Dakota but for the country,” said attorney Derrick Braaten.

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