

SUBJECT LINE: **Please vote NO on SB 185!**

Dear Senator

I am writing to urge your NO vote on SB 185, the Foreign Ownership of Agriculture Land bill.

I am a South Dakota farmer and own/operate land that my family uses to grow crops for the production of food. I share concern about foreign interests obtaining our valuable South Dakota ag land. However, SB 185 is not the right way to address this concern.

Policy makers need to hear agriculture's voice on this issue. Every ag group in the state, along with other allied industries, opposes SB 185. Following are our main concerns:

- This bill grants unilateral authority to one person – whomever the seated Governor is at any given time.
- There is NO waiver for research plots, which today are operated by companies owned by foreign entities (i.e. Bayer–Germany; Syngenta–China; BASF–Germany).
- The bill also increases the state's three-year look-back timeframe to review farmland transactions for violations up to 20 years. If a foreign interest were discovered anytime in that timeframe, violators would be forced to forfeit their land without a proper hearing or appeal.
- There is no clear plan for how the state will divest of seized land in what timeline, and who will pay property taxes in the interim.
- This bill sets dangerous precedent for the creation of committees that can operate without due process and objective, measurable guidelines.
- This is also a private property rights concern.

There are so many unanswered questions in SB 185 and unintended consequences will be the result. Let's pause and work together on a bill that truly addresses the concern of foreign ownership of ag land that will be effective and enforceable.

Please vote NO on SB 185.

Sincerely from your constituent,