



February 10, 2021

Representative Marty Overweg
Chair, House Agriculture and Natural Resources
Pierre, SD 57501
houseagnaturalresources@sdlegislature.gov

Re: HB 1153

Dear Representative Overweg,

I, Evan Grong representing Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc. (Valley Queen), a South Dakota business at 200 East Railway Ave. Milbank, SD 57252 would like to request to provide written testimony on HB 1153 as a proponent.

Valley Queen is supportive of this legislation introduced to give the Board of Regents authority to contract for design and construction of a new dairy research farm at South Dakota State University.

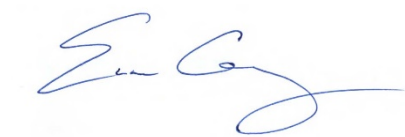
1. History. Valley Queen was founded in 1929. Today, we remain privately owned. We proudly employ more than 300 people in our small community. Since the beginning, Valley Queen has taken great pride in providing opportunity for our partners, our employees and the communities we call home. We plan to continue that tradition for many more years to come.
2. Historic growth. Since 1929, Valley Queen has experienced significant growth. The most recent expansion was completed in 2019 at a total project cost of over \$50 million, which resulted in increased production capacity of over 1 million pounds of raw milk per day.
3. Future growth. Valley Queen intends to continue to grow into the future as we have in the past. With the intended future growth in processing here at Valley Queen, demands on dairy farms to continue to grow and advance will increase as well.
4. Farm size and sustainability. Demands on dairy farms to continue to improve quality, food safety, efficiencies, environmental and sustainability practices continues to increase. The research farm needs to continue to grow to reflect the size and demands of today's dairy farms.

Valley Queen

5. Education and employment. Many of our more than 300 employees are graduates of the Dairy Science program at SDSU. As our vision to be the premier privately owned dairy manufacturer in the U.S., we continue to recruit talent to build a world class team.

Valley Queen stands in support of HB 1153, and respectfully asks for approval of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources committee to refer to appropriations.

Sincerely,



Date: 2/10/2021

Evan Grong, Transportation and Milk Procurement Manager