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February 19, 2009
One Page Broadcast Fax

To: North Dakota Elevator Managers and all Allied Members

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Today is crossover at the ND Legislature. That means all bills are to be acted on by the house of origin. Bills are either killed by the house of origin or passed and sent over to the other side. The legislators are scheduled for five days off, returning to work in Bismarck next Wednesday.

We were able to get **HB 1169** put down last Friday by a vote of 19 yeas, 69 nays and 6 absent. This bill intended to stop grain buyers from putting the names of tenants' lenders and lienholders on landlords' grain checks. In almost all grain sales that is not going to happen anyway. If the landlord has a lien on him and he is in the Central Notice System the buyer will likely put those extra names on the landlord's check. There were other adverse consequences for lienholders and grain buyers with the original bill and the bill as amended. Thanks to those of you who contacted your House members about this measure.

Unfortunately **HB 1417** was defeated last Thursday by a vote of 31-60. This bill relieved propane dealers from civil liability if the propane or propane equipment was misused and there's an accident. The argument against the bill was to not single-out one product for such protection and also that existing laws provide sufficient protection. Examples were given to the contrary.

The bills raising the barley, sunflower and flax **checkoffs** have cleared the Senate almost unanimously, and the wheat checkoff will almost certainly stay at 1.5¢ per bushel.

Rep Mueller and others have introduced **HCR 3048** directing the Legislative Council to "study the bonding requirements placed on grain warehouses and buyers and ways to reduce further the financial risk of participants in the production, handling, and processing of grain." Here's the link: <http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/61-2009/bill-text/JGJA0100.pdf>

HCR 3050 is a Constitutional amendment to require at least one legislator in each district to be elected in each general election. Now the Senator and both Reps are all on the ballot every four years.

Two proposals for Constitutional amendments to lengthen legislative sessions have been introduced. The current limit is 80 days max every two years. **HCR 3062** seeks to increase that to 100 days max. **HCR 3057** seeks to increase it to 120 days max.