

March 4, 2021

The Honorable David Monson  
Chairman, Appropriations Committee – Education and Environment Division  
North Dakota House  
North Dakota State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Information Relative to SB2020, a bill for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the North Dakota State University Extension Service, Northern Crops Institute, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, Main Research Center, Branch Research Centers, and Agronomy Seed Farm; to provide for a report; and to provide an exemption.

Chairman Monson and Members of the House Appropriations Committee - Education and Environment Division:

For the record, I am Monte Peterson, a director on the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association as well as the American Soybean Association and I am currently chairman of the U.S. Soybean Export Council. I thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB2020.

As a soybean farmer near Valley City, North Dakota, I'd like to recognize the support shown by the Senate to restore budgets to base level and for looking at ag key initiatives. NDSU Research and Extension supports agriculture across the entire state. This broad base has helped soybeans spread to nearly every county in the state, providing a profitably cropping option for more and more farmers.

An area of specific interest to the soybean industry is help grow the livestock industry in North Dakota. Only 16 percent of the gross ag receipts in North Dakota are from agriculture, while our neighboring states average 44 percent of gross ag receipts from livestock. Livestock enterprises add value to crops like soybeans. While known as an oil seed, about 80 percent of a soybean provides high quality meal for animal feed. Increasing demand for this meal in state adds value to every community where livestock are raised.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB2020. I hope my comments are of value in your decision-making. I stand ready to answer any questions that you may have.  
Respectfully Submitted,

Monte Peterson  
Director  
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association  
American Soybean Association  
U.S. Soybean Council Chair