

*Richard A. Schock Testimony House Appropriations Committee*

Thank you for your time Mr. Chairman and thanks to the rest of this committee membership. Let me begin by introducing myself to you my name is Richard Schock from Kindred, ND. Raised in Forbes, ND I grew up around farming and livestock. I am Chief of our local Kindred Fire and Rescue Department and have been in the fire service for 17 years.

I have seen my fair share of tragedy over the years. I lost my father on our family farm south of Forbes, ND at the age of 7 to a livestock incident. This came as a hard blow to our entire family as having three other siblings my mother had a difficult time continuing running our 75 head dairy operation. We left the farm after about 5 years. I worked for farmers pretty much my entire life as I enjoy it very much.

As I grew up, I got married and moved to another farming community – Kindred. I got to know many people as this is a wonderful place to be. My friend talked me into joining him on the local fire department, we had good times together. We celebrated a small Christmas gathering together then a couple days later we received an emergency call to my friend's farm, it read grain bin entrapment. My friend lost his life December 26, 2008.

Our department put together a specialized rescue team to deal with these accidents on farms shortly after. The relationship with extension then became strong as we worked together on all sorts of projects like combine fire checklists to bin safety reminders. We are gaining significant momentum for farm safety through extension and these programs will save lives and the property of producers. Currently we have several large-scale collaborative efforts in the works through extension that will for sure bring farm safety to the forefront with help from this committee. I hope we can continue to grow and work with extension to bring back and drive more trainings and education to family farmers and save lives together.