



North Dakota Soybean Growers Association

3/9/2021

### Support 2020

Chairman Monson and Members of the Committee; Thank you for the time today. My name is Kasey Bitz from LaMoure, ND and on our family farm we raise soybeans, corn, and wheat, are lamb producers and have a cow/calf operation. I also serve as a board member and treasurer for the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association.

I am here today to support SB 2020. As a diverse agriculture operator in North Dakota, I understand that NDSU Research and Extension is very important to my operation and other producers across our state. On my operation I have used my extension agent to help with planting cover-crops on prevent plant acres to help plan for the next year while also being able to graze, attend livestock herd management workshops, review the information from the Hettinger and Carrington Research Center to make the best decisions for my farm, completed the Rural Leadership North Dakota program and now on the council to provide direction for the next classes of Rural Leadership. The reason I have such a strong passion for these programs is from my involvement with 4-H at a young age and continue to volunteer.

Agriculture has a strong background in our state, and for this to continue we will need to have support for these programs. NDSU Research and Extension will benefit all producers in our state. In agriculture the focus is always on what is new and next. We in agriculture need to have these resources available to us and cannot afford to lose any researchers. Producers of all sizes will need these research and extension programs to make important decisions on their operations as we continue to face volatile markets for grain and livestock. Thank you for your time today and will stand for any questions.