



**Testimony of Dave Spickler
On behalf of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association
March 9, 2021
In Support of SB 2020**

Chairman Monson and members of the House Appropriations Committee - Education and Environment Division,

My name is Dave Spickler and I serve on the board of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association.

The North Dakota Corn Growers Association appreciates this opportunity to voice our members' support of NDSU extension, ag research, and the North Dakota Ag Experiment Station. These groups immensely benefit agricultural through education, outreach and research activities. Earlier proposed budget cuts would have compromised the positive impact those efforts have for North Dakota and we thank you for adequately funding them.

Extension in particular is critical to our ag communities and overall economy. Notably, the 4-H program administered by NDSU Extension, is a gateway into agriculture for our youth, introducing them to all aspects of farm and ranch life. A 4-H participant is twice as likely to be civically active and four times as likely to give back to her community while many employers enjoy hiring 4-H alumni because of their reputation for excellent work ethic and strong character.

We ask you to support full funding of these programs to help ensure a strong foundation for North Dakota agriculture. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your time and effort and thank you for your service.