



**Testimony of Brenda Elmer
On behalf of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association
March 11, 2021
In Support of 1475**

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee,

My name is Brenda Elmer and I am the executive director of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association. On behalf of our state's corn growers, I express our support of HB 1475.

The North Dakota Corn Growers Association endorses House Bill 1475 which would expand the State of North Dakota's support for value added agriculture. Although the bill's amount of financing is just \$5 million for loans to value-added projects, we are hopeful that it would be amended to increase that funding and reinstate the grant provisions that would be so important to new and expanded value-added endeavors in the state. Often times, they are just too costly otherwise.

We need the help with workforce, equipment, and infrastructure of value-added business ventures, and to bolster the funds for these types of enterprises. Part of our association's mission is to help develop and expand markets for North Dakota corn. We need additional, and diverse value-added projects in the state that can help process North Dakota's commodities and increase the demand. With favorable lending terms and working capital for new projects and expansions of existing ones, more economic incentive will be provided to help spur varied opportunities and provide a boost to our farmers and ranchers and for our state. We think that this legislation will have a hand in developing a more robust market for our crops and more opportunity for our states growers which in turn helps our communities and North Dakota. We ask you to support HB 1475 and a do-pass recommendation. Thank you for your time.