



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Support of HB 1475
Senate Agriculture Committee
March 12, 2021**

Chairman Luick, members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland, Executive Director of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). NDGGA, through our contracts with the North Dakota Wheat Commission and the North Dakota Barley Council, engages in domestic policy issues on the state and federal level on behalf of North Dakota wheat and barley farmers. I am providing testimony for you today on behalf of NDGGA in support of the hog housed HB 1475 which has been presented to the Committee today.

HB 1475 creates the new Agriculture Diversification and Development (ADD) Fund which would provide loans and grants for needed value-added agricultural businesses based in North Dakota. The legislation, utilizing the excellent resources of the Agriculture Commissioner, the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, Bank of North Dakota and the Agricultural Products Utilization Commission, ensures that value-added agriculture will be nurtured in the state and at the same time protects the use of taxpayer dollars. To NDGGA this bodes very well for the state of North Dakota.

NDGGA supports the loan and grant provisions contained in this new bill. Additionally, NDGGA supports the confidentiality provisions of the legislation. In total HB 1475 looks to take a much-needed leap forward in providing for value added agricultural enterprises in North Dakota.

Chairman Luick, members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, increasing opportunities for value-added agricultural industries in North Dakota is an essential component for the continued success of our state's agriculture. Providing and obtaining the funding necessary for value added agriculture is always a challenge; HB 1475 provides the essential pieces of the value-added puzzle which will benefit North Dakota agriculture and the North Dakota economy now and in the future.

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Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association respectfully requests that the Senate Agriculture Committee give HB 1475 a Do Pass recommendation and would urge the full Senate to concur.