

Sent from my iPad

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. My name is Jim Howe. I farm at Casselton, ND and am a ND Certified Seed producer. Our farming operations are located 5 miles NE of Casselton and we produce wheat, barley, soybeans, corn and sugar beets. I am on the board of the Advisory Agronomy Seed Farm Council and I represent the local farm community over site to the operations of the Agronomy Farm.

The existence of the Seed Farm is so important to all seed producers across the State of North Dakota. The seed farm purpose is to supply a good supply of new varieties and seed lines of wheat, barley, edible beans and soybeans. Research in plant breeding, crop rotation, and farm chemicals are also essential products the seed farm exhibits.

Because of this cooperation with the researchers, plant breeders and scientists from NDSU, there is a tremendous economical multiplier effect across the state, as our farmers utilize the new seed varieties and learn from the agronomists and our Regional Extension Service centers.

The contributions of our Agronomy Seed Farm to the State of North Dakota and its certified seed producers further extends the economic reach across the state. We as farmer/seedsman are fortunate to have this working relationship whether or not you are from Casselton, Bismarck, Minot or Dickinson.

The purpose of my testimony today is asking for approval for the Agronomy Seed Farm budget. As some of you know, the Agronomy Seed Farm is 100% self supportive from the sale of Foundation seed across the state and am not asking for any appropriations.

Thank you for your attention and thank you for the opportunity to present our Advisory Councils testimony.

Sincerely,
Jim Howe

Local farmer representative to the Agronomy Seed Farm Advisory Council

