

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Appropriation Committee

I am Stanley Dick, farmer from Munich, Cavalier County Commissioner and Current President of North Dakota Association of Counties. It is my honor to testify before this committee.

I would like to remind us all a well-known fact that is sometimes forgotten. Geographically, the State of North Dakota has not changed. We are a land from Canada's border to South Dakota, and we have land between Montana and Minnesota. This land **because of agriculture** is a primary economic engine for our State. My brother, a Professor of Agronomy at Ohio State University claims "North Dakota State University, a Land-grant University, and Extension are second to none in the United States. He travels extensively not only in the United States, but world-wide promoting Agronomy and Soil Sciences. He uses NDSU's research findings in his presentations. NDSU's Extension and Research Centers are vital to develop, maintain and continue North Dakota's agricultural roots and industry.

A prime example of the importance of Extension was expressed to me at a National County Convention in Las Vegas. NDSU's Extension Junior Master Garden Program was shared and discussed by me and people from North and South Carolina. As a result, they have implemented small gardens and plots surrounding nursing homes and elderly care centers. Their objective is not only to keep their residents busy, but also to show the source of food to them and future generations. This is also done by Extension in Cavalier County with our day care centers. Our little ones are excited to learn that food does not originate at the grocery store, but from the earth. Carrots taste a lot better when they are freshly pulled from the ground, than when they are taken out of a plastic bag at the grocer. We assume this in North Dakota because it is an agricultural state, but we are losing this knowledge every year, not only in our state, but also in our great nation.

Our Research Centers and County Extension Offices give us as farmers important information. Non-biased reports on seed varieties, insecticides, pesticides, fertilizer recommendation and other ag-related advice are provided to help us in production agriculture. I learned that our Extension Agent in Cavalier County who is also an entomologist has done pesticide resistant studies on soybean aphids. The research she has done has been printed and used not only by North Dakota farmers, but also by neighboring states in the fight against this pest. The research center in Langdon has also done an intensive research study on flea beetles in canola. Resistance to pesticide of the beetles have become an alarming trend. We are garnering valuable information from this research. Our research centers and extension agents are intertwined, and fit hand in glove with information that benefits all of us as a State.

North Dakota Association of Counties also supports the passage of SB2020. At our annual meeting in 2020, we passed a continuing resolution to support the unique partnership of NDSU Extension between state and county government.

With all that has been said above, I strongly believe that NDSU Extension should receive continued funding to advance their mission.

Thank you for listening, thank you for your time.