

January 18, 2021

The Honorable Ray Holmberg
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
North Dakota Senate
North Dakota State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Information Relative to SB2020, a bill for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the North Dakota State University Extension Service, Northern Crops Institute, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, Main Research Center, Branch Research Centers, and Agronomy Seed Farm; to provide for a report; and to provide an exemption.

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

As Vice President of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association, I thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB2020.

North Dakota's livestock industry accounts for 16 percent of gross agricultural receipts and offers ample opportunity for growth. For a major feedstock like soybeans, being able to feed more livestock in state provides an added value we can capture rather than shipping our whole beans to Asia.

Our association is committed to increased livestock production, but new producers may need the support of NDSU extension specialists to provide the technical knowledge needed to successfully grow the industry. Extension provides science-based information to all North Dakotans.

We ask that you maintain the base level funding for NDSU Extension.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB2020. I hope my comments are of value in your decision-making. I stand ready to answer any questions that you may have. Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan Pederson, Rolette
Vice President
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association