



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in favor of SB 2020
Senate Appropriations Committee
January 20, 2020**

Chairman Holmberg, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland, Executive Director of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. NDGGA, through its contracts with the North Dakota Wheat Commission and North Dakota Barley Council engage in domestic policy issues on the state and federal levels on behalf of North Dakota wheat and barley farmers. I appear today in support of SB 2020 with suggested amendments.

Chairman Holmberg, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the budget before you is an investment in North Dakota's future. Agriculture, year in and year out, is the economic engine that drives the North Dakota economy. It is the agricultural research and extension contained in SB 2020 and the State Board of Research and Education priorities that comprise a critical component in maintaining North Dakota agriculture's economic lead both nationally and globally. With the state's continued commitment this lead can and will continue.

Specifically, what does NDSU Research and Extension deliver for North Dakota? First, they deliver an unbiased source of research-based information from which North Dakota agriculture can make informed decisions for their individual operations. Second, NDSU Research and Extension generates valuable research information that will fit the variable North Dakota conditions by developing seed varieties, soil fertility information and risk management that is tailored to fit a particular ecosystem. Third, the interactive system that melds researchers at the NDSU Main Station with researchers at the Regional Extension Centers provides NDSU Extension with the localized information necessary to make North Dakota agriculture more informed and thus more successful. Fourth, NDSU Research and Extension is critical in allowing agriculture to respond to rapidly changing needs. Finally, NDSU Research and Extension works with its partners, state and federal decision-makers, private companies, state and federal regulators and farm organizations to address the needs and issues facing the agriculture industry.

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Chairman Holmberg, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, NDGGA recognizes there are proposed cuts in this budget; we would respectfully request of you to restore and even enhance those appropriations to meet the ever expanding, ever critical needs of North Dakota agriculture. Only if we as a state invest in our future can we expect to help to make that future bright. Our economy depends on it.

Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association respectfully requests your favorable consideration of enhancements to SB 2020 and then would request your do pass recommendation of this legislation. Thank you!