



January 20, 2021

FMWF Chamber Support for SB 2020

Chair Holmberg, Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

For the record my name is Katie Mastel, and I serve as the Government Affairs & Advocacy Manager at the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber). On behalf of our over 2,000 Chamber member businesses, we urge **support for the priorities developed by the State Board of Agriculture Research and Education.**

The Chamber recognizes the value of NDSU Extension of the ND Agriculture Experiment Station in delivering research-based solutions for agriculture communities across the state. The money invested in extension and research creates new wealth in communities large and small throughout the state and allows growers and agribusinesses to focus on continued profitability and sustainability.

Investment in agriculture research yields advantageous financial returns as well as widespread impacts. Studies show the **return on agriculture research is 40%**. In addition, one out of every four people in North Dakota has ties to agriculture. Thus, each county and town across our state has an economic link to the health of the agriculture economy. We recognize that North Dakota is a leader in agriculture research. In order to maintain that honorable status and support our statewide economic health, we support the priorities developed by the State Board of Agriculture Research and Education. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Mastel