

# Cavalier County Job Development Authority

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RE: Testimony for SB 2020  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
January 20, 2021

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shannon Duerr and I am the Executive Director of the Cavalier County Job Development Authority (CCJDA). I also serve on the advisory council for the Langdon Research Extension Center. It is in both of those capacities that I write to you today.

While I believe that all the work NDSU does throughout the state, at the NDSU main station, branch research extension centers and Extension is extremely important, I am writing today about two items that directly affect Cavalier County. About 20% of the canola grown in North Dakota is grown in Cavalier County, when you take include the surrounding area of northeast North Dakota, we grow about 32% of the state's canola. Clubroot taking hold here would be extremely detrimental. Both items I am writing to you about today could help with this threat.

The Langdon Research Extension Center (LREC) has identified a need for a greenhouse to allow for year-round testing for its plant pathology program. A greenhouse would also allow isolation for testing things such as clubroot, which cannot be tested without isolation due to the potential to spread the disease.

In addition to the greenhouse, LREC has also identified a need for a clubroot fungus technician FTE which could also help provide much needed research to keep Cavalier County and North Dakota ahead of the clubroot threat.

While this letter today focused mainly on the threat of clubroot and the importance of more research, all research done at the LREC is not only valuable to the producers in the area, but also extremely valuable to economic development. While working on recruiting potential ag companies to our county, CCJDA relies heavily on the LREC for up-to-date information to provide these companies. Many businesses we work with are ag based business and even those that are not are impacted greatly by good and bad years as a most customers are either producers or work in the ag industry. The more research producers can have access to when making important decisions the better for the entire community.

Thank you for the opportunity to express support for SB 2020.

Sincerely,

Shannon Duerr