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**Testimony of Darrell Oswald
Chairman
North Dakota Ag Coalition
In Support of HB 1431**

Chair Bell and members of the Committee, my name is Darrell Oswald, and I am here today as the chairman of the North Dakota Ag Coalition in support of HB 1431. The Ag Coalition has provided a unified voice for North Dakota agricultural interests for over 35 years. Today, we represent more than 40 statewide organizations and associations that represent specific commodities or have a direct interest in agriculture. Through the Ag Coalition, our members seek to enhance the climate for North Dakota's agricultural producers.

The Ag Coalition takes a position on a limited number of issues, brought to us by our members, that have significant impact on North Dakota's agriculture industry. The Ag Coalition supports HB 1431, specifically as it relates to the Ag Products Development Center, as this project is needed to continue the high-quality research essential to the future of North Dakota's crop and livestock producers. This investment in North Dakota agriculture works to enhance all commodities to benefit the future of the state's economy. With agriculture being the number one industry in North Dakota, it is critical to support the producers through research and education.

The proposed Ag Products Development Center will serve as a replacement for Harris Hall and the Meats Research Laboratory, which will bring new technology and equipment to ag research and provide new teaching areas for crops, livestock and food science. The current facilities limit research and education as they can no longer provide the space, safety or technology researchers and students need to carry out their important work.

The agricultural research facilities at NDSU are the foundation for North Dakota's ag economy. We recommend a do pass on HB 1431 as the Ag Products Development Center will significantly enhance research and education for the state's producers and future generations.