



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Support of HB 1437
House Agriculture Committee
February 4, 2021**

Chairman Johnson, members of the House Agriculture Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland, Executive Director of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). NDGGA, through our contracts with the North Dakota Wheat Commission and the North Dakota Barley Council, engages in domestic policy issues on the state and federal level on behalf of North Dakota wheat and barley farmers. I am providing testimony for you today on behalf of NDGGA in support of HB 1437.

HB 1437, as the Committee is well aware, addresses the drain tile approval process. Some of the conditions found in the legislation include the retention of the under 80-acre tiling rule which, to NDGGA, is a necessary part of the legislation. The bill offers simplified land ownership documentation as well as a reduction in the documentation necessary for the notification process. Additionally, projects under 80 acres require water resource district notification and it increases tiling permitting fees for actual costs up to \$500. Also, the actual tile plan is not subject to open records provisions.

Orderly water management is critical to the continued success of North Dakota agriculture. Chairman Johnson, members of the House Agriculture Committee, NDGGA feels this is another step in improving the water management process forward in our state.

Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association would respectfully request that the House Agriculture Committee give HB 1437 a Do Pass recommendation and would ask that the full House concur.

"You Raise; We Represent"

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