

Members of the House Agriculture Committee,

We are Travis and Ashley Bruner, farmers and ranchers near Drake, in District 6.

As members of North Dakota Farmers Union, we would like to request your support for HB 1475. With a portion of Legacy Fund earnings going toward an Agriculture Innovation Fund, this bill would support much needed value-added agriculture businesses in our state, including beef processing, soybean crush, biofuel plants, feed mills and much more. As producers, the bill would also improve our income, create new jobs in rural communities, and ultimately strengthen North Dakota's economy.

Agriculture is the main economic force in our state's economy; it's the foundation for what the great state of North Dakota stands for. North Dakota agriculture is fast pacing other states as we are number one in many crops, and our ranchers are working hard to produce top quality beef every day. Providing 20% of Legacy Fund earnings back to value-added agriculture will continue to develop and grow the agriculture industry in North Dakota and continue to progress our state forward as a leading agriculture state.

The recent pandemic has proven issues with food security and supply chain shortfalls. Allowing access to this program and these funds will provide a means to develop solutions and make progress towards improving these issues and supporting all sectors of our states agricultural system.

I urge you to support HB 1475 and continue to support agriculture funding in the state of North Dakota.

Thank you for your time, and leadership!
Travis and Ashley Bruner

Drake, District 6