

March 4, 2021

Kenny Bahm
Assistant Vice-President
Farm Credit Services of Mandan
Mandan, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing on behalf of the Adult Farm Management/Farm Management Education program which is part of the Department of Career and Technical Education bill being discussed.

Along with my career as an agricultural lender, I also serve as the Committee Chairman for the Bismarck State College/Bismarck Public Schools Agriculture, Technology, Food, and Natural Resources Advisory Committee. I get to see firsthand the great work that this program does and provide ongoing input to continually improve the program for the agriculturalists of our state.

At times I have heard that this program is competing for business with private sector accounting firms. However, I oversee this area of our business at Farm Credit Services of Mandan and can tell you that this is not the case. Many times, we have mutual producers that have their records and taxes completed within our department and use that information for their classes with this program. This program takes a financially disinterested view with each operator in their class and makes a deep dive into general financial and specific enterprise analysis. This program is not here to complete data input or file tax returns for a producer, but to show individuals how to balance this data, analyze it, and use it to improve their operation.

In addition to the individuals it serves, I also appreciate the statewide public reports they produce. Their data is accurate to the current economic environment and gives those in, and outside the agriculture industry, information on this major sector of our great state.

I would continue to ask for your support of this vital education program and would like to close with the following quote by Nelson Mandela— “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”.

Thank you for your consideration and support of the Senate Appropriation Committee—Bill 2019 during the 67th North Dakota Legislative Assembly.