



Senate Bill 2020

Presented by: Barry Haugen
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Before: House Appropriations – Education and Environment Division
Representative David Monson, Chairman

Date: March 9, 2021

Good afternoon Chairman Monson and members of the House Appropriations Committee – Education and Environment Division. For the record, my name is Barry Haugen and I am President of the Independent Community Banks of North Dakota (ICBND). ICBND membership totals nearly 60 independent community banks throughout our state.

ICBND supports Senate Bill 2020 and specifically the programs provided by the NDSU Extension and Ag Research. Agriculture represents the largest sector of North Dakota’s economy and has a profound impact on the portfolio of every independent community bank that ICBND represents. The work done by NDSU Extension assists our member banks’ farm and ranch customers to improve their farm productivity, protect the nation’s food supply and strengthen the local economy. Agriculture and banking work hand in hand to make our communities strong.

Importantly, NDSU Extension empowers citizens to be healthy and safe through education on ag safety, collaborating to distribute mental health resources to farmers and ranchers, and ensuring safe and healthy food for consumers. Educating our agriculture community on how to prevent dangerous situations from occurring is needed. Each year we read about tragic farm and ranch accidents that can be prevented. The workforce of today is less experienced and may not have grown up on farms or ranches, making the need for safety training even more important.

Chairman Monson and members of the House Appropriations Committee – Education and Environment Division, we encourage your support of Senate Bill 2020. Thank you for your time and consideration.