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**NORTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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**HB 1395 Testimony  
Doug Goehring  
Agriculture Commissioner  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
March 19, 2021**

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Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, for the record, I am Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here in support of House Bill 1395 and to request a portion of the projected unspent federal Coronavirus Relief Funds.

NDDA utilized Coronavirus Relief Funds to provide cost share programs to meat processors, charitable food organizations, and coronavirus research. We also utilized the funds to implement the USAHERDS program, update the grain inspection database, and update the local foods map. These database changes and upgrades were implemented for needs related to COVID. First was to enable remote capabilities for the regulated community. Secondly, there has been increased interest in local foods and the interactive local foods map. It has been a trusted resource for the public to locate those products in their communities.

I would like to propose a request as you redistribute the unspent funds. First, I would like to request an exemption to carryover \$150,000 to replace outdated databases for the meat inspection and dairy programs, and to support how we interact with our producers, processors, and elevators in the Grain Licensing and Inspection database.

Second, I am asking for your consideration on reallocating \$20 million to continue grants to meat processors and \$15 million to continue the

Bioscience Innovation Grant Program for Coronavirus Research. This program included projects relating to antibody therapeutics, immunotherapies, antibody testing, rapid test device for use by individuals or companies, inspection and decontamination equipment.

This sounds familiar because I made this request through HB 1394 this morning as well. These programs have proven successful and securing the additional funding and spending authority, either in HB 1394 or HB 1395, will continue that success.

Chairman Holmberg and committee members, thank you for your consideration of my requests. I will stand for any questions.