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**Testimony of Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
House Bill 1475
Senate Appropriations Committee
March 29, 2021**

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and I am here in support of HB 1475.

HB 1475 creates the Agriculture Diversification and Development (ADD) Fund in chapter 4.1-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code. The ADD fund will be utilized for loans and grants.

The fund will be used to complement interest buy down programs at BND. The loans will be administered by the Bank of North Dakota and the grants will be administered by the ADD committee. This committee will consist of eleven members. The agriculture commissioner will have five appointees, the governor will have one appointee, and there will be representation from the Independent Community Banks of North Dakota, the North Dakota Bankers Association, the Department of Commerce, NDSU, and the Agriculture Commissioner.

The ADD program will provide incentives for new or expanding value-added agriculture businesses that demonstrate financial feasibility, enhance profitability for farmers and ranchers, create jobs, and grow the state's economy.

The ADD program is an opportunity to invest in agriculture and North Dakota.
Chairman Holmberg and committee members, thank you for your consideration of
HB 1475. I will stand for any questions.