

Good afternoon Chairman Holmberg and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Dave Gehrtz, I have made my residence in New Rockford for over 50 years. I have worked in the private sector of agriculture serving for 45 years in north east ND and N West Minn. *Currently I am the senior District Sales Manager and stockholder at Proseed, I have held that position for the last 17 years.* I have worked with livestock and grain producers on ways to help their bottom line working now with second and third generation producers. I serve as an advisory committee member for Carrington REC.

As I address this Appropriation Committee you as members should be looking at the work being done at our REC's, the information they bring out in their studies of products and new farming practices. I have used the information from the Carrington REC and other centers to make recommendations to

producers because the information coming from the REC'S is nonbiased. Also the fact Carrington has a livestock research center along with crop research center is a very important asset to this region.

Members of this committee come from large cities and small rural areas. Ag is a very important part of ND. *It is in every county in ND and every city, 1 out of 4 people employed in ND are related to Ag.*

Without proper funding of this asset in ND, you will not be serving our AG producers. There are scammers in the area of AG as in other areas of business. Our REC's bring this out in their studies of products and trials. This research is not funded by industry but by our state and should be funded to the highest level to protect our producers in the AG field. As I said in my opening comments this is education and should be funded to the highest level possible. This should be looked at as an investment that pays a very large return to Ag in ND, *studies show that the return on Ag Research is 40%.* I ask this committee to not only fund at last *year's*

*budget but increase funds* because of the return to ND AG. If any committee member would want to talk to me about my comments please feel free to do so.

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