

Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

Good afternoon, my name is Greg Lardy and I currently serve as the Vice President for Agricultural Affairs at NDSU. I am here today to discuss the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education's (SBARE) capital improvement project priorities outlined in the NDAES budget request for the ARPA funds.

The draft language for SB2345 contains funding for SBARE's number two request is for funding for livestock research facilities at three of the Research Extension Centers (Carrington REC, Central Grasslands REC, and Hettinger REC). This request encompasses several facility upgrades at these locations to improve animal handling and safety, both for animals and employees; enhancing our ability to collect meaningful data related to livestock nutrition, management, and cost of production; and delivering cutting edge research to an industry poised for growth. Investments in these research facilities will result in improvements in productivity and profitability and which ultimately mean additional tax revenue and jobs for the state of North Dakota. The draft bill includes \$446,000 for projects at the Carrington REC, \$1,963,000 for projects at the Central Grasslands REC, and \$3,420,000 for projects at the Hettinger REC.

SB2345 also includes funding for the construction of an agricultural laboratory and shop facility at the Dickinson Research Extension Center. The current facilities lack adequate heating and cooling and have inadequate dust collection systems necessary for the safety of the employees at the REC. The current shop facility is not large enough for service work on full size vehicles such as pickup trucks, much less modern agricultural research equipment. The draft bill contains \$2.2 million for the construction of this facility.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I would be happy to entertain any questions you may have.