



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Support of
SB 2345, Section 1, subsection 37
Senate Appropriations Committee
November 8, 2021**

Chairman Holmberg, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland, Executive Director of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). NDGGA, through our contracts with the North Dakota Wheat Commission and the North Dakota Barley Council, engages in domestic policy issues on the state and federal level on behalf of North Dakota wheat and barley farmers. I am providing testimony for you today on behalf of NDGGA in support SB 2345, Section 1, subsection 37 which allows the Department of Commerce to provide autonomous agricultural matching grants in the state.

Chairman Holmberg, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, one of the objectives autonomous agriculture has is the use of technology in helping to solve “pain points” in agriculture. As in any industry, working smarter is an objective for North Dakota agriculture especially with the challenges it faces such as increased input costs, a shortage of skilled labor, and weather issues to name just a few. One of these autonomous projects, Grand Farm, along with its outreach to technology providers, is looking for technology solutions to help address these issues and more.

However, just as any beginning business, infrastructure aid is a vital component for the project’s success. Grand Farm, and projects like it, are in critical need of aid in the funding of a new facility as well as for workforce development. Help in these two areas will assist in pushing autonomous initiatives forward in their mission to capitalize on the region’s potential in the agriculture and technology industries.

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Chairman Holmberg, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, SB 2345, Section 1, subsection 37, is an investment in the technology advancement of North Dakota's leading industry, North Dakota agriculture. The \$10 million contained in the proposal is an investment in technology that will benefit North Dakota now and in the future. Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association respectfully requests the Senate Appropriations Committee give its favorable recommendation to SB 2345, Section 1, subsection 37, and would urge the full Senate to concur.