



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Support of HB 1431
Senate Finance and Tax Committee
March 17, 2021**

Chairman Bell, members of the Senate Finance and Tax Committee, for the record my name is Tom Bernhardt; my family and I operate a diversified farming and ranching operation in Linton, North Dakota. I am also the President of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. I am submitting testimony today in both roles in support of HB 1431 as it pertains to the Ag Products Development Center.

Chairman Bell, members of the Senate Finance and Tax Committee, my family and I are very proud of our farm and our agricultural heritage in North Dakota. My wife, Tamie, and I are bringing our family back to the farm because of the opportunities it affords them for their futures. As all of you are very aware, agriculture, as in many businesses, is a very competitive occupation. You need as much “going for you” as you can which leads me to my support for the Ag Products Development Center.

In order to stay competitive in today’s global economy, farmers need all of the support they can get. The Ag Products Development Center will not only maintain that support it will enhance that support by providing world class facilities to our already world class research and extension faculty and staff in North Dakota. This will allow cereal sciences, meat sciences, and the Northern Crops Institute to continue to make North Dakota agriculture the best in the world. The Ag Products Development Center will also allow for better retention and recruitment of faculty and staff which enhances critical agricultural research and extension services in this state. This will help pave the way for my family and my farm to continue our success.

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Phone: 701-282-9361 | Fax: 701-404-5187 | 1002 Main Ave W. #3 West Fargo, N.D. 58078

As a vital component of the North Dakota economy the state's agriculture needs the Ag Products Development Center to maintain our leading edge in world food production. Therefore, Chairman Bell, members of the Senate Finance and Tax Committee, I request from myself, my family and the North Dakota Grain Growers Association that you give HB 1431 a Do Pass recommendation regarding the Ag Products Development Center and would ask that the full Senate concur.