

Testimony of Dana Hager
Economic Development Association of North Dakota
In Support of HB 1276
Feb. 8, 2023

Chairman Vigessa and members of the House Appropriations Committee:

My name is Dana Hager, executive director of the Economic Development Association of North Dakota (EDND). I am here to express support for HB 1276 relating to the Agriculture Diversification and Development Fund (ADD).

EDND represents more than 80 state economic development organizations on the front line of economic development efforts throughout North Dakota. EDND members understand that our state's long-term future depends upon expanded economic diversification and supporting innovation that will bring new wealth to the state.

The Agriculture Diversification and Development Fund (ADD) was established through HB 1475 during the sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly to support new or expanding value-added-agriculture businesses. These funding opportunities, including grants, interest rate buydowns and loans, are important tools for agriculture opportunities and businesses in North Dakota. With every value-added-agriculture company North Dakota supports, our state becomes more diversified and better positioned for the future.

Thank you for taking the time to share EDND's support HB 1276. We request the committee's support in funding ADD to help grow this program for the state's future agriculture businesses.