

Testimony of Samantha Vangsness

Executive Director, North Dakota Ethanol Producers Association

**In Support** of HB 1276

February 8, 2023

Chairman Vigesaa and members of the House Appropriations Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today, I am Samantha Vangsness. I am executive director for the North Dakota Ethanol Producers Association (NDEPA), which represents North Dakota's six ethanol plants, industry stakeholders and associated businesses. I am here today to voice support for HB 1276, which allocates \$50 million to the agriculture diversification and development (ADD) fund.

Thanks to North Dakota's innovative private sector and supportive state government, North Dakota's ethanol industry has been able to expand into various markets. Annually the industry converts 40-60% of the state's corn crop into more than 550 million gallons of ethanol, 1.5 million tons of high-value livestock feed (distillers grain), 2.4 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and 20 million gallons of corn oil used in renewable diesel. According to a recent study conducted by North Dakota State University, the ethanol industry contributes nearly \$1.7 billion annually to the state's economy and provides thousands of direct and indirect jobs.

Since the creation of the ADD fund in the 67<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, ten projects have been funded, including one at Tharaldson Ethanol. This project implements a selective milling technology system to improve efficiency and increase ethanol production per bushel of corn. The additional funds will assist ethanol and other industries in innovation and diversification into the future.

Thank you for your time, and I respectfully urge a 'Do Pass' recommendation on HB 1276. I stand for any questions.