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Dear Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture Committee,

Subject: Support for SB2274 to Transition ND Farm Management Education Program to the Agriculture Commissioner

We are writing to express strong support for SB2274, which proposes transitioning the supervision of the North Dakota Farm Management Education Program from the Department of Career and Technical Education (CTE) to the Agriculture Commissioner. This transition represents a strategic alignment that will better serve the needs of North Dakota's agricultural producers.

The proposed change recognizes the synergies between the Farm Management Education Program and the Agriculture Commissioner. By situating the program with the Agriculture Commissioner, we can:

1. **Enhance Collaboration:** The Agriculture Commissioner is uniquely positioned to provide resources and expertise directly relevant to the agricultural community. This proximity will foster stronger collaboration between educators, producers, and industry experts.
2. **Improve Program Effectiveness:** Aligning farm management education with the Agriculture Commissioner's initiatives ensures a more cohesive approach to addressing the challenges and opportunities facing North Dakota's farmers and ranchers.
3. **Streamline Funding and Support:** The bill's provision to allocate appropriated funds to the Agriculture Commissioner will ensure that the program's instructors have the tools and support needed to succeed.
4. **Strengthen Agricultural Advocacy:** Under the Agriculture Commissioner's supervision, the Farm Management Education Program will gain a stronger advocate at the state level, further empowering educators to meet the evolving needs of North Dakota's producers, lenders, agribusinesses, and other stakeholders in the agriculture industry.

Our state's agricultural producers face increasingly complex challenges from fluctuating market conditions to the integration of new technologies and sustainable practices. Now more than ever, they need comprehensive, relevant, and accessible farm management education – and the Agriculture Commissioner is the ideal home for this vital program.

We urge you to support SB2274 and ensure that this important transition is implemented. By doing so, we can reinforce North Dakota's commitment to its farmers and the broader agricultural community.

Thank you for considering this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like further information.

Sincerely,

Jason Fewell
President, North Dakota Farm Management Education Association
ND Farm Management Instructor, LRSC – Carrington