



SENATE BILL NO. 2327
HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
MIKE BELTZ, CHAIR
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 2327
MARCH 13, 2025

Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture Committee. I am Parrell Grossman, and it is my privilege to be the Legislative Director for the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association. I appear on behalf of the Association in support of Engrossed Senate Bill 2327.

The Association advocates for more than 8,900 operations that raise soybeans in North Dakota. In 2024, North Dakota farmers planted 6.6 million acres of soybeans, producing over 245 million bushels of soybeans in North Dakota.

The Committee is very aware of the agricultural economic impact in North Dakota. NDSU's 2024 North Dakota Agriculture Industry Economic Contribution Analysis reported that the economic contribution to North Dakota is \$41.3 billion, including \$26 billion from direct output and \$15.3 billion from secondary output. The report also concluded that this economic contribution included 46,620 direct jobs and 76,740 secondary jobs for total jobs of 123,360.

The Association understands the importance of the agriculture diversification and development fund and we enthusiastically support the continuing appropriation of \$15,000.000 in the re-enactment of section 4.1-01-07.

This section provides as follows: "Loans, interest rate buydowns, or grants under subsections 3 and 4 may be issued from the fund to support new or expanding value-added agriculture businesses that demonstrate financial feasibility, enhance profitability for farmers and ranchers, create jobs, and grow the state's economy." We understand that is exactly what has been occurring with this program and fund.

This section further provides that “grants under section 4.1-01-27 may be issued from the fund for infrastructure improvements necessary for the development or expansion of new or existing value-added agriculture businesses. North Dakota is incredibly fortunate to now have two soybean crushing plants at Spiritwood and Casselton. Those plants greatly benefit soybean farmers and North Dakota’s economy, including providing many quality jobs in rural North Dakota.

The agriculture diversification and development committee and the Bank of North Dakota seem to be doing an excellent job of facilitating the program’s intended purposes and mission and responsibly managing these funds. The Association is very appreciative of the legislature’s past and strong support of this program. The Association recommends the State keep funding this program and believes it is possible we could see another over \$10 billion growth in agriculture’s economic contribution to North Dakota, as occurred between 2022 and 2024.

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Agriculture Committee, for the reasons stated the Association respectfully asks the House Agriculture Committee to give Engrossed Senate Bill 2327 a “Do Pass” recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration and I will try and answer any questions.