

## **Legislative Letter of Support**

March 13, 2025

RE Bill 2327 Letter of Support by Mollie Ficocello, 3 Farm Daughters, Grand Forks ND

Chairman and committee members,

For the record, my name is Mollie Ficocello, and I am a Co-founder of 3 Farm Daughters in Grand Forks, ND, a better for you pasta brand that was built on a passion to reconnect people with where their food comes from, the farm. Our pastas are sold online, through retail partners, and food service. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding Bill 2327: A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 4.1-01.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to uses of the agriculture diversification and development fund; to provide an appropriation; and to provide for a transfer.

I am here today to support Bill 2327. In 2024, 3 Farm Daughters received ADD funds to help create efficiencies in our food service packaging operation. Prior to the program, our packing process was very slow, manual and labor intensive. Through the ADD program, we purchase an automated scale, a poly bag sealer and case taper.

Having this equipment has increased our packing capacity by over 10x which has in return allowed us to take on new accounts and more quickly service our current accounts. Prior to the receiving the ADD funds, the economics of our food service side of the business was unsustainable, however now it has transitioned to being one of the more profitable sectors of our business.

Therefore, I strongly encourage this body to support Bill 2327.

Thank you for your time and review of this testimony today and thank you for your service to our state.