

SB2020

03/11/2025

Chairman Monson and Members of the Committee: I'm Jeff Peterson, owner and operator of Pointe of View Winery and Souris Valley Vineyard. I'm here today in support of continued funding for grape and wine research at the North Central Research Extension Center in Minot.

Currently there are 17 licensed wineries and 20 plus commercial vineyards in North Dakota.

In 2022 WineAmerica, a national organization representing wineries in all 50 states commissioned an economic impact study of the wine industry that provided data for each individual state. John Dunham & Associates in Florida did the analytical work. North Dakota wineries annual impact was 16.4 million dollars and is projected close to 20 million dollars in 2025.

The work that the NCREC has been doing has recently resulted in the patent of two new varieties, and will become commercially available in the next few years. There are potentially more patentable varieties that need further evaluation. The need for a state funded grape & wine position and operating funds are vital to the completion of the grape & wine work at NCREC.

Thank you for your time and consideration!