



**In Support of SB 2020
North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station
House Appropriations – Government Operations Division**

Testimony of Andrew Mauch

March 11, 2025

Chairman Monson and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity for the North Dakota Corn Growers Association to share our support of Senate Bill 2020.

For the record, my name is Andrew Mauch. I farm near Mooreton with my family. I am here today as the President of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association, representing more than 13,000 corn growers across the state.

From 1980 and 2015, our nation's corn farmers decreased the land required to produce a bushel of corn by 41 percent; reduced soil loss per acre by 58 percent; improved energy efficiency per bushel by 41 percent; reduced greenhouse gas emissions per bushel by 31 percent; and reduced per bushel irrigation water usage by 46 percent, as reported by the National Corn Growers Association. But corn growers have not made these gains on our own. We rely on partners in agribusiness, technology, and research to help us to achieve these efficiencies.

The North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station initiatives include the network of Research Extension Centers, a major public source of independent and reliable practical research that our growers depend on in this ever-changing world of farming. We use the results of the professionals working for the benefit of our farmers on real-life challenges and opportunities we face on an ongoing basis. They help us cut through the marketing claims of products and supplies through field trials and research; how to identify plant diseases like the corn leaf disease tar spot that was discovered in the state last year, and how to manage it, and have their finger on the pulse on what our state's ag producers are facing by working

closely with our farmers throughout the state. They disseminate their findings so we can incorporate them into our farm operations. ***The Ag Experiment Station programs must be fully funded*** as they are a lifeline for North Dakota agriculture and its \$41.3 billion annual impact on the state's economy.

Furthermore, we will need help as corn production is at a crossroads where there is a market-driven demand from consumers pressing for more accountability in how our food, fuel and fiber get to them. Specifically, the passenger aviation industry's net zero emissions goals have our value-added ag processors calling on us to evaluate our farming practices to be able to meet these market demands. **SBARE's Biofuels and Carbon Management** priority would further strengthen the marketability of our corn and improve the profitability of our operations as it intersects with our growers, helping us rise to the occasion.

And finally, we want to convey our support for the **Center for Ag Policy and Trade Studies** initiative. We must insert research from the heartland affecting national and international public policy on farm programs and trade. The initiative will allow us to better understand how such policies impact North Dakota's agricultural sector. With state funding to help leverage national funding, this can be an incredible opportunity to develop the center for the benefit of the ag industry in North Dakota.

Our mission statement is "growing a healthy, profitable business climate for northern corn," and research from the Ag Experiment Station is critical to help us meet that mission. We urge your support for SB 2020.

I will stand in response to any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration.