

Testimony of Mr. Keith Lund
Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation President & CEO

House Bill 1332
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee
March 20, 2025

Chairman Luick, Vice Chair Myrdal, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee, my name is Keith Lund, and I am President & CEO of the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation (EDC). I am providing testimony in support of HB 1332.

The Grand Forks Region EDC's mission is to expand economic opportunity for the citizens of the Grand Forks region by growing and diversifying the region's economy, and by extension, the State of North Dakota's economy. We dedicate a significant amount of our organization's resources to support the growth of agribusiness, a leading sector in our region and North Dakota.

HB 1332 would create a \$30 million value-added agriculture facility incentive program that, if approved, would attract a significant international agribusiness company to the Grand Forks region. This investment would exceed \$450 million, leverage more than \$150 million in on-farm commodity storage investment, and create 300-350 high-paying jobs in North Dakota. Construction activities would support an estimated 4,900 jobs over a two-year construction period and generate an overall economic impact of \$1 billion in the Grand Forks region over that time.

In addition to the significant local and regional impacts, HB 1332 creates a tangible return on investment for the State of North Dakota. Based on projections prepared by the North Dakota Commerce Department, the project is estimated to generate \$6.1 million in personal income tax and \$649,000 in corporate income tax revenue during the two-year construction period. Once operational, the project will generate an estimated \$19.2 million in sales tax revenue and \$813,000 in individual income tax revenue to the State of North Dakota. Based on these projections, over \$26 million of the State's investment would be returned after the company has completed one year of operations, with a full return of the State's investment after 14 months.

The economic impact and return on investment of HB 1332 is evident. In addition, benefits to regional producers cannot be overstated. This contemplated project would create new food products for domestic distribution from a new crop variety, further diversifying the State of North Dakota agricultural economy. This project has been led by farmers and creates tremendous value for farmers, communities through Northeast North Dakota and the State of North Dakota.

Thank you, Chairman Luick, Vice Chair Myrdal, and members of the House Agriculture Committee for your service to the State of North Dakota and for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1332.