



# U.S. Durum Growers Association

*PROMOTING THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF DURUM AND SEMOLINA*

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**Testimony of Steve Perdue  
Policy Committee Chair  
HB 1026  
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Chairman Johnson and members of the House Agriculture Committee, my name is Steve Perdue, and I am a farmer from Ray and serve as the policy committee chair for the U.S. Durum Growers Association (USDGA). On behalf of USDGA, I would like to express support of HB 1026, which provides numerous enhancements to grain licensing and regulation to better support producers.

USDGA has represented the nation's durum growers for more than 60 years. Today, we represent grower and industry members from 10 states, with North Dakota producing 50-60 percent of the nation's durum.

This bill is the result of a long-term collaboration between the Department of Agriculture, grain dealers, producers and other stakeholder organizations to provide adequate support for farmers in the event of an insolvency. Unfortunately, there have been insolvency instances over the past several years that have been financially detrimental to North Dakota's producers. The protections in this bill would have helped mitigate the negative impact to the state's farmers. USDGA appreciates the efforts over the interim to address producer and grain dealer concerns and find a compromised solution that is amicable for both stakeholder groups. The provisions in this bill are a step forward in protecting the state's ag producers from additional financial hardships.

Thank you for the opportunity to show USDGA's support for HB 1026 and express our appreciation for all those involved in the work to address this important issue.