



**Testimony of John Schneider  
Senate Bill 2053  
House Agriculture Committee  
March 4, 2021**

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Chairman Johnson and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am John Schneider, Business Marketing, and Information Division Director, and I am representing Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2053 which would amend §4.1-01.1-06 of the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) relating to the purposes of the Agricultural Products Utilization fund. The program was moved from the ND Department of Commerce by the 66<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, and I'm happy to report the move went flawlessly with both agencies working together to ensure a smooth transition of the program.

The mission of the Agricultural Products Utilization Commission (APUC) is to create new wealth through the development of new and expanded uses for all North Dakota agricultural products and bi-products. This is accomplished through the administration of seven grant programs in the areas of basic and applied research, marketing and utilization, technical assistance, farm diversification, prototype, technology, and nature based agricultural grants. APUC funded fifty-six projects through grants totaling over two and a half million dollars through December 2020, the project summaries can be found in the provided annual report.

As the number of grants have grown and the types of requests have changed, it has become unclear if APUC can fund equipment. Many applicants have expressed the need for specialized equipment especially in the prototype and technology categories which would assist

in a commercialized product. SB 2053 will provide clarity for applicants by adding equipment to the list of how the fund must be used.

Chairman Johnson and committee members, thank you for your consideration of SB 2053. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.