

March 11, 2021  
Todd Steinwand, SVP Business Development, BND  
Testimony on SB2230  
House Agriculture Committee

Position: Support

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am Todd Steinwand, Chief Business Development Officer for Bank of North Dakota, here today in support of SB2230. This bill proposes to increase the funding for value added agriculture and energy projects. Issues important to the economic diversification of our state. In considering this bill, I wanted to highlight two points.

1. BND is aware of several value added agriculture and energy projects that could move forward in the next couple of years. The availability of this program in providing a guarantee to a local financial institution may be essential to securing the financing package and moving a project forward.
2. The structure of this program enables BND flexibility to utilize the funding in a way that most benefits the state and fills in gaps. In 2020, at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, North Dakota ethanol producers approached BND about how it could provide interim financing to assist them through the drastic downturn.

BND utilized this financing tool to create the Ethanol Recovery Program and guaranteed the loans made to ethanol facilities in North Dakota. This funding made it possible to structure a recovery program that otherwise may not have happened.

BND appreciates the support of the Legislature and believes the value added agriculture and energy program is a flexible program that enables BND to develop programming that moves the economy forward. If you have any questions, I am happy to answer them.