



House Appropriations Committee
Testimony
Cargill, Incorporated
January 26, 2021

Honorable Chair, members of the House Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1159, ensuring funding for critical natural gas infrastructure in North Dakota. My name is Becca Martin and I am director of state government relations for Cargill, based in Wayzata, MN. I'm here today representing Cargill's corn milling facility in Wahpeton where we grind approximately 90,000 bushels of corn a day to meet the needs of our food ingredient and animal feed customers.

Cargill provides food, agriculture, financial and industrial products and services to the world. Together with farmers, customers, governments, and communities, we help people thrive by applying our insights and 156 years of experience. We have 155,000 employees in 70 countries who are committed to feeding the world in a safe, responsible, and sustainable way.

With deep roots in North Dakota, we operate the Wahpeton facility and a soy crush plant in West Fargo. In total, Cargill employs more than 230 people in the state and these two plants represent an investment of more than \$260 million dollars.

Representative Mitskog and members of this Committee have been strong advocates for North Dakota having a reliable supply of natural gas throughout the state to promote economic growth and advance the interests of the state. We agree, businesses like ours and local communities require access to reliable and affordable energy to thrive and grow.

Cargill is proud to stand with its partners in the City of Wahpeton as a coalition that recognizes that the best way to protect interests of residential and industrial consumers of natural gas is to have the right infrastructure.

Like many companies, Cargill often evaluates our current asset footprint and strategic areas for growth. (Wahpeton is a unique facility from a Cargill standpoint because we do not own the asset and instead have an operating lease agreement with the owner, ProGold LLC). The decision as to where Cargill chooses to invest capital is more rigorous than ever and many variables for site selection are considered— utilities being a critical one. Cargill's Wahpeton facility has experienced multiple interruptions in service, causing us to shut down operations on several occasions. Inadequate natural gas service causes serious disruptions in our operations, limits our ability to service our customers, threatens the economic viability of the plant, and most certainly prohibits growth and expansion.



Having access to adequate and reliable supply of natural gas is imperative to maintaining Cargill's current operations in North Dakota as well as a critical factor as we evaluate potential future growth.

Cargill is your partner in advancing the best interests of the state of North Dakota and the farming community. We stand ready to work with you and your staff to continue advocating for additional natural gas supply and welcome the opportunity to share more information about the impact of this issue to Cargill and our operations here in North Dakota.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becca Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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