



Northern
Pulse Growers
Association

Testimony of Shannon Berndt
Northern Pulse Growers Association
HB 1431
February 1, 2021

Good afternoon Chairman Delzer and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Shannon Berndt, and I am the executive director for the Northern Pulse Growers Association. The Northern Pulse Growers Association represents pea, lentil and chickpea growers and processors throughout North Dakota and Montana. On behalf of the pulse industry, I am here today to provide testimony in support of HB1431.

I would like to thank the North Dakota Legislature, SBARE and NDSU for the tremendous support the pulse industry has received. With the establishment of the pulse breeding program and quality lab at NDSU, which is the first in the nation, our industry has continued to prosper. Efforts by NDSU research and extension centers across the state have had a major impact on the development of the pulse industry. With their support our producers have the resources to produce high yielding, high quality product for markets around the world. The region's pulse industry which includes Montana and North Dakota currently accounts for 80% of all United States pulse production.

The next phase in the development of the pulse industry will require a considerable amount of research in the areas of quality, utilization, sensory and attributes such as protein content. Global protein markets, which include soy, wheat, and pea proteins, are forecast to increase from 10.3 billion USD in 2020 to 14.5 billion USD in 2025. This represents a significant opportunity for pulse producers.

Recently, customers around the world began demanding high protein pulses that would better fit into their end products. Unlike many of our fellow grain commodities, the pulse industry lacks much of the research necessary to develop these quality parameters. The Ag Products Development Center at NDSU will be vital to this next phase of development significantly increasing our ability to participate in global value-added markets.

Northern Crops Institute has also played an integral role in the development of the U.S. pulse industry. Through technical education seminars hosted internationally and domestically, pulses have started to have a significant impact in emerging protein markets. Fractions of pulses—flours, starches, proteins, and fibers have opened many new marketing opportunities around the world. Some of the first work completed in the U.S. with pulse fractions was conducted at NCI more than 20 years ago. The establishment of the Ag Products Development Center will be central to ensuring North Dakota and U.S. pulse producers remain in future global markets.

On behalf of pulse producers in North Dakota and the U.S., we urge your support for the appropriation in HB1431 for the establishment of the Ag Products Development Center and the inclusion of Northern Crops Institute. Thank you.