



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Support of HB 1475
Senate Appropriations Committee
March 29, 2021**

Chairman Holmberg, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland, Executive Director of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). NDGGA, through our contracts with the North Dakota Wheat Commission and the North Dakota Barley Council, engages in domestic policy issues on the state and federal level on behalf of North Dakota wheat and barley farmers. I am providing testimony for you today on behalf of NDGGA in support of HB 1475.

HB 1475, as you are all aware, creates the Agriculture Diversification and Development Fund, known as ADD, which would provide loans, grants and interest rate buydowns for needed value-added agricultural businesses based in North Dakota. Grant funding may not exceed 25 percent of the overall fund. The Bank of North Dakota shall, in cooperation with the newly formed Agriculture Diversification and Development Committee, shall administer the Fund. Additionally, confidentiality provisions are provided for in the legislation which NDGGA also agrees with.

Chairman Holmberg, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, increasing opportunities for value-added agricultural industries in North Dakota is an essential component for the continued success of our state's agriculture. Providing and obtaining the funding necessary for value added agriculture is always a challenge; HB 1475 provides that essential piece of the value-added puzzle which will benefit North Dakota agriculture and the North Dakota economy now and in the future.

Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association respectfully requests that the Senate Appropriations Committee give HB 1475 a Do Pass recommendation and would urge the full Senate to concur.

"You Raise; We Represent"

Phone: 701-282-9361 | Fax: 701-404-5187 | 1002 Main Ave W. #3 West Fargo, N.D. 58078