Testimony of Jim Bahm
North Dakota Ag Coalition
SB 2020
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Chairman Holmberg and members of the committee, my name is Jim Bahm, and I am here today as the vice chairman of the North Dakota Ag Coalition. The Ag Coalition has provided a unified voice for North Dakota agricultural interests for over 35 years. Today, we represent more than 40 statewide organizations and associations that represent specific commodities or have a direct interest in agriculture. Through the Ag Coalition, our members seek to enhance North Dakota's agriculture industry.

The Ag Coalition takes a position on a limited number of issues, brought to us by our members, that have significant impact on North Dakota's agriculture industry. The Ag Coalition supports the funding of the 2020-2023 SBARE priorities for the NDSU Extension Service and the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. Ag research and extension continue to be one of the top priorities for North Dakota's crop and livestock producers. North Dakota producers rely on ag research and extension to make decisions to produce the highest quality product that is most economically feasible.

We would like to stress how detrimental the budget decrease recommended by the Governor would be to not only North Dakota agriculture, but to the state's economy as a whole. Agriculture has and continues to be the leading industry in North Dakota. The programs and services provided by NDSU research and extension are essential to the future of agriculture in North Dakota. NDSU research and extension works closely with producers around the state to mitigate struggles and to problem solve issues facing rural North Dakota.

We appreciate your past support and urge your continued support of research and extension as these programs provide valuable information, education and tools for the state's producers. They have been, and will continue to be, the driving force in the future of North Dakota's agriculture industry and North Dakota's economy. We encourage your support of SB 2020.