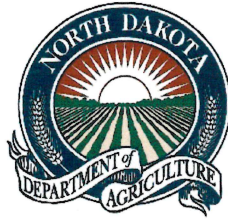


COMMISSIONER
DOUG GOEHRING



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**Testimony of Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
Senate Bill 2020
Senate Appropriations
Roughrider Room
January 20, 2021**

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2020.

It has been a pleasure to serve on SBARE, and work with NDSU extension and research to move agriculture forward, and address issues when they arise. We have several great examples of how our agencies have worked together over the last biennium, including; the industrial hemp program, palmer amaranth, the local foods program, pesticides, and many other programs. Restoration to the base budget is essential in allowing agriculture research and extension to continue providing support to agriculture and rural communities. I would also recommend the committee to consider funding some of the other priorities which would allow NDSU to be a leader in addressing future needs in the agriculture industry.

As a department, we recognize not only the importance of agriculture research, but the importance of extension's role as being the local, trusted expert for producers. This is why I stand here today in support of SB 2020 and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.