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REFERENCE: ND SENATE BILL 2245
RE: TESTIMONY FOR SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

From: Robert Sinner, SB&B Foods, LLC
Casselton, North Dakota

Dear Chairman Holmberg,

My name is Robert Sinner, President of SB&B Foods, LLC located at Casselton, North Dakota. Our Company exports identity preserved food quality soybeans, barley and wheat mostly to Asia and is involved with intermodal freight issues every day.

I personally have been involved with the effort to establish intermodal service for the State of North Dakota for a minimum of 15 years and understand all that has transpired to where we are today.

I am a strong believer that intermodal service is critical for ND producers to be able to participate in the rapid development of specialized and Identity Preserved marketing which will require a change for transporting agriculture products, namely containerization. I am concerned however, that State appropriations to support the infrastructure development of a private facility be done in a way that insures accountability. If the State is willing to appropriate funds to this effort, and I am fully supportive of the continued ramp development in Minot, should the State not consider taking some level of ownership of the infrastructure?

Furthermore, in addition to the infrastructure appropriation, this bill also allows for \$5,000,000 to be appropriated towards a loan guarantee program related to both the development and expansion of an intermodal transportation facility. Again, the current facility in Minot is a private facility and I would suggest that, if State funds are committed, that they be done in a way that does not reimburse the State Bank of ND, the First Western bank in Minot, the City of Minot or other entities for prior debt that they each have previously assumed. It should be done in a manner that clearly promotes the growth of the agriculture value added industry by realizing and funding the necessary improvements. I might suggest the appointment of an independent State Intermodal Committee that operates under the guidance of the ND Trade Office to provide oversight on this activity.

I am requesting that I be allowed to speak in reference to the hearing on this bill and answer any/all questions your Committee members might have related to my comments. My sincere thanks for your consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Sinner', written over a blue circular stamp.

Robert Sinner, President
SB&B Foods, LLC