



Northern
Pulse Growers
Association

Testimony of Shannon Berndt
Northern Pulse Growers Association
HB 1431
March 16, 2021

Good afternoon Chairman and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Shannon Berndt, and I am the Executive Director for the Northern Pulses Growers Association. On behalf of the pulse industry, I offer testimony in support of HB1431.

The Northern Pulse Growers Association represents pea, lentil and chickpea growers and processors throughout North Dakota and Montana. The region currently accounts for more than 80% of all United States pulse production. Global protein markets, which include soy, wheat, and pea proteins, are forecast to increase from 10.3 billion USD (2020) to 14.5 billion USD in 2025. This represents a significant opportunity for not only pulse crops, but many other North Dakota commodities.

The Ag Products Development Center/NCI will play a vital role in the value-added development of North Dakota commodities. This facility will provide an opportunity to showcase North Dakota agriculture to customers around the world, ultimately increasing market share and producer profitability.

We urge your support of HB1431 for the establishment of the Ag Products Development Center and the inclusion of Northern Crops Institute. Thank you for your consideration and continued efforts to support all of North Dakota agriculture.