COMMISSIONER
DOUG GOEHRING

NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE CAPITOL
600 E BOULEVARD AVE DEPT 602
BISMARCK ND 58505-0020

ndda@nd.gov
www.nd.gov/ndda

Testimony of Tom Bodine
Deputy Agriculture Commissioner
House Agriculture
SB 2290
Room 327 C
03/09/2023

Chairman Thomas and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am Tom Bodine Deputy Agriculture Commissioner, here on behalf of Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2290, which would provide funding for the Grassland Grazing Cost Share Program. The funding would be used for water development, fencing, conservation initiatives, compliance with federal permitting requirements, and projects that enhance wildlife habitat, increasing soil health, and enhancing the health grasslands.

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture is currently administering the cost share program for the 21-23 biennium and has identified that there still exists a significant need for additional funding. Due to the increase in costs, supply chain issues and a lag in the federal government's review process. The bill would also

allow the Department to carry remaining funds in the current appropriation into the 23-25 biennium. I believe the cost share program has been very beneficial and has improved the overall functionality and the health of the grasslands. Again, thank you for letting me address the committee today. This program is important and valuable. I urge a do pass on SB 2290. I would be happy to answer any questions.