



Testimony of Brenda Elmer, executive director

North Dakota Corn Growers Association

In SUPPORT of SB 2373

March 10, 2023

Chairman Thomas and members of the House Agriculture Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to share our support of Senate Bill 2373. For the record, my name is Brenda Elmer, and I am the executive director of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association (NDCGA), which is the voice of the more than 13,000 corn growers across the state at the grass roots level for issues that impact corn producers.

In December, Governor Burgum joined NDSU at the Capitol to unveil a first of its kind comprehensive study of the economic contribution of agriculture in the state. For the year 2020, agriculture contributed nearly \$31 billion to the economy and more than 110,000 jobs. The impact of agriculture was much more than we imagined and the state of ag in North Dakota is promising.

SB 2373, allows counties that are friendly to livestock development to be recognized by the Agriculture Commissioner to help assist efforts to develop, maintain, or expand livestock sectors within the counties of North Dakota. This is a positive step in identifying counties that are 'open for business' within the state and help those looking to expand or locate livestock operations within the counties.

North Dakota annually produces about 400 million bushels of corn with about half dedicated to ethanol production throughout the state. Each bushel of corn processed by North Dakota ethanol plants produces about 15 pounds of livestock feed (dried distillers grains), yielding nearly 1.5 million total tons of livestock feed, including dry distillers grains, a high-protein feed sought after by livestock producers. SB 2373 would aid in the identification of potential livestock locations across the state and assist economic partners in connecting with the right opportunities and local governments.

This bill would move North Dakota in a positive direction towards expanding agricultural development which in turn aids producers of corn and other commodities in building valuable markets. We urge your support of SB 2373. Thank you for your time today and I stand for any questions you may have.