

January 13, 2023

Honorable Don Vigessa
House Appropriations
North Dakota Legislative Council
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505-0360

Dear House Appropriations, Representative Don Vigessaa, Chairman:

Western Region Economic Development (WRED) representing Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, and Williams Counties of North Dakota, supports HB1020, and specifically, the SBARE priority of capital improvement and one-time request for the Nesson Valley Facility of the NDSU Williston Research Extension Center.

The Nesson Valley Irrigation Research and Development Project is located 27 miles from Williston and the irrigation staff currently utilize a small office and bathroom in a chemical storage building.

A Research and Technology Transfer and Research facility is needed for office and lab space and a conference room for irrigation conferences and grower meetings to support the expansion of irrigation and food processing industries in western North Dakota.

Expanded agricultural economic development in western North Dakota will be driven mostly by expanded irrigation research and development as the catalyst to promote new and expanded production of high value crops and irrigated agricultural processing capability. The MonDak Irrigation Frontier has the potential to expand to 500,000 acres.

WRED strongly encourages this committee to approve full funding of this budget request for the NDSU Williston Research Extension.

Sincerely,



Ann Kvande
Executive Officer