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**Testimony of Brian Amundson
North Dakota Ag Coalition
HB 1020
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Chairman Monson and members of the committee, my name is Brian Amundson, and I am here today as the livestock representative on the executive committee of the North Dakota Ag Coalition. The Ag Coalition has provided a unified voice for North Dakota agricultural interests for more than 40 years. Today, we represent more than 45 statewide organizations and associations that represent specific commodities or have a direct interest in agriculture. Through the Ag Coalition, our members seek to enhance North Dakota's agriculture industry.

The Ag Coalition takes a position on a limited number of issues, brought to us by our members, that have significant impact on North Dakota's agriculture industry. The Ag Coalition supports the funding of the 2023-2025 SBARE priorities for the NDSU Extension and North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. Ag research and extension continue to be one of the top priorities for North Dakota's ag producers to assist in decisions leading to the production of the highest quality product that is most economically feasible.

The ND Ag Coalition is a very diverse group that addresses all areas of agriculture that depend on NDSU research and extension. Producers around the state rely on the work of NDSU research and extension to mitigate struggles and to problem solve issues facing rural North Dakota. We would like to stress the need that was addressed as a critical priority of SBARE and the Governor to build attractive compensation packages for the recruitment and retention of employees. We would also like to highlight the capital improvement request of the Field Lab Facility to address the modernization needs of several of the research facilities.

We appreciate your past support and urge your continued support of research and extension as these programs provide valuable information, education and tools for the state's producers. They have been, and will continue to be, the driving force in the future of North Dakota's number one industry, which contributes \$30.8 billion to North Dakota's economy annually. We encourage your support of HB 1020.