



Testimony of Brian Leier

Vice President, North Dakota Corn Growers Association

In support of HB 1020

January 16, 2023

Chair Monson and members of the House Appropriations Government Operations Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity for the North Dakota Corn Growers Association (NDCGA) to share our support of House Bill 1020 and funding for the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station.

For the record, my name is Brian Leier. I farm near Linton, ND and I am the Vice President of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association, which is the advocacy arm of North Dakota corn at the grass roots level and serve as the voice of the more than 13,000 corn growers across the state.

Last month, 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 and represented nearly 25 percent of the state economy.

The Experiment Station's vital work on plant protection and production, and conducting crop disease research, helps our state's agriculture producers increase their yields exponentially. If not for the funded efforts in these programs, this work would otherwise fall short and certain to adversely impact our economic output on the farm and on the state.

Similarly, the Station's initiative-cropping system, in which extension specialists work on western crop production and weed management, on farm research aims to help expand agriculture's footprint in North Dakota.

Capital improvement investment in the field lab is absolutely critical for facilities needed for agronomic research. We need an effective space for breeding, plant pathology, soil science, and development of high value crops. Corn growers across North Dakota have benefited from weed science, plant pathology and soil science research.

NDCGA's mission statement is "growing a healthy, profitable business climate for northern corn", and the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station is a valuable tool to help producers meet that mission. Thank you for your continued support of North Dakota agriculture and NDSU research. We urge your support of HB 1020. Thank you for your time today and I stand for any questions you may have.