

Good Morning Chairman Monson and committee members.

I'm Curt Stanley a member of the HREC Advisory Council and a representative of the NDLWPA.

I'm here to say thank you for the funding of the HREC project that came out of the special session.

The HREC was established in 1909 as a dairy research station

At the close of WWII (1944) the station was in such a state of despair that it was said that it was only suitable for sheep.

Between then and now significant sheep research has been conducted at the station including

- Original confinement barn testing

- Nutrition research

- Out of season lambing protocols

- The largest/best shearing and wool classing school in the US

Thanks to the Special Session for funding the "Smart Sheep Feedlot and Livestock Lab which will propel the HREC to the most technologically advanced sheep research facility in the US.

Another hat I wear occasionally is the American Sheep Industry Assoc. director for ND. I can attest that there is national interest in this facility. Currently ~60% of the

lamb consumed in the US is imported. On a national level there is a real interest and drive to increase the efficiency in the US sheep industry in order to help correct that imbalance.

This funded project has the potential for the HREC to be an important part of the advancement of the sheep industry in the US.

In order to fully utilize and capitalize on this facility, the NDLWPA is fully in support of the SBARE priorities regarding attracting the best talent to further these initiatives and retain that talent in ND.

To close – Thank you to the ND legislature for funding the project we are currently undertaking and request your support in the recruitment and retention of the high quality talent