

Good morning Committee Members,

My name is Wesley Frederick. I farm and ranch about 50 miles southwest of here in Grant County. I am a supervisor on my local Soil Conservation District serve on the State Soil Conservation Committee.

I am here in support of the NDSU Extension budget request and the Program Initiatives as ranked by SBARE.

I will speak more specifically to the fifth priority, involving the State Soil Conservation Committee Support.

North Dakota's 54 Soil Conservation Districts promote locally led, locally delivered, voluntary conservation programs. SCD's partner with a broad spectrum of organizations to maximize their impact. These partnerships, coupled with local leadership, bring statewide results. 100% of the funds allocated to the SSCC by the legislature are distributed directly to the SCD's, where they are used for employee salaries or benefits only. The SSCC distributes these funds to maximize the conservation impact of the local SCD's. I appreciate these dollars in my District, as it makes it possible to recruit and maintain quality staff to plan and implement for our local needs.

I have participated in programs offered through my SCD which have helped me on my farm. Results have been increased soil health and improved water quality, which have helped me make the land I operate on more resilient and economically viable.

Extension continues to play a vital role in conservation education and training with the SSCC. As conservation practices evolve, the programming developed within the Extension system continues to equip producers and develop leadership across the state.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to ask for your support of the NDSU Extension budget and I would welcome any questions.