

## Written Testimony in Support of SB 2009

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I urge the House Appropriations Committee to support SB 2009. As a lifelong citizen of North Dakota, farmer, and entrepreneur, I am offering my experience as an executive at SafetySpect, Inc, based in Grand Forks, as testimony to the benefits of funding biotech innovations in our state.

We are working on an ambient light UV sensing device that allows users to see invisible contaminants and pathogens. The applications for our device are many, including in health care, food service, and agriculture. And we keep finding new uses.

We're developing technology for use in pre-emergent, early growth, and late stage agriculture, to identify specific plant pathogens in real time. No other technology like this exists, and it has the potential to save on farm input costs significantly by allowing farmers to custom tailor chemical applications instead of using them preventatively.

We have received just less than \$3 million in state support in various loans and grants, and we've invested that back into North Dakota. Our prototype devices are manufactured at ComDel Innovations in Wahpeton, ND, and we have pilot studies in place in Edgewood Senior Living locations in ND, as well as several research programs at UND. We hire our engineers and interns and researchers from UND and NDSU, and plan to expand our operations from our current level of 13 to 20 by the end of this year, at our headquarters in Grand Forks, ND.

I appreciate the opportunity to demonstrate how SafetySpect is providing a return on the financial and human capital that North Dakota offers. Like our legendary fertile soils, the economic climate provided by the state provides excellent growth opportunities for innovative companies like ours to grow and thrive.

-Joe