



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Support of
HB 1369
House Appropriations Government Operations
Division
January 25, 2023**

Chairman Monson, members of the House Appropriations Government Operations Division, for the record my name is Ed Kessel. I own and operate a family farm in the Belfield area and I am also the President of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). I appear before you today in both capacities in support of HB 1369.

There are a number of reasons to support HB 1369:

1. Locally produced fertilizer helps to ensure a stable supply of fertilizer especially for North Dakota farmers. It also buffers logistical challenges throughout the supply chain like low/high water events on the Mississippi River, problems with rail delivery, as well as global events to include pandemics and wars
2. Plants would utilize North Dakota Natural Resources to add value to local communities through job creation, local property tax, and reliable consumption of natural gas and electrical power demand.
3. U.S. companies and importers throughout the world are showing interest in lower carbon commodities. The proposed fertilizer plants would help put North Dakota farmers in a great position to supply this demand.

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At the 2022 NDGGA Annual Meeting the NDGGA membership adopted the following resolution: "NDGGA supports adding fertilizer production capacity in North Dakota." North Dakota wheat and barley farmers depend on a reliable fertilizer supply which helps them feed the world. HB 1369 will help to accomplish this.

Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association respectfully requests that the House Appropriations Governmental Operations Division give HB 1369 a Do Pass recommendation and would hope the full House concur.