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**Testimony of
Matt Perdue
North Dakota Farmers Union
Before the
House Appropriations Committee
January 25, 2023**

Chairman Vigesaa and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1369. My name is Matt Perdue, and I am testifying on behalf of North Dakota Farmer Union's (NDFU) members.

NDFU supports HB 1369, which will support the development of new fertilizer plants in North Dakota. Over the last two years, global supply chain disruptions have caused fertilizer prices to skyrocket. Because North Dakota is located at the end of the supply chain, the impacts have been severe for North Dakota producers. NDFU firmly believes increasing in-state fertilizer production is critical to the long-term success of our state's family farmers.

Through much of 2021, anhydrous ammonia and urea prices were more than double the five-year average prices. This was particularly challenging for North Dakota producers who already pay more than farmers in other parts of the country. Over the last five years, the average Northern Plains ammonia price was 53% higher than the average price in the U.S. gulf.

Fertilizer production will create new synergies between our state's two largest industries: agriculture and energy. North Dakota has abundant natural gas resources and is positioned to be a leader in emerging clean hydrogen markets. Expanding fertilizer production will add value to those processes and improve profitability for family farmers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We respectfully request a "Do Pass" recommendation on HB 1369. I will stand for any questions.