



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Support of
HB 1379
House Appropriations Committee
February 8, 2023**

Chairman Vigessa, members of the House Appropriations Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland, Executive Director of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). NDGGA, through our contracts with the North Dakota Wheat Commission and the North Dakota Barley Council, engages in domestic policy issues on the state and federal level on behalf of North Dakota wheat and barley farmers. I am providing testimony for you today on behalf of NDGGA in support of HB 1379.

HB 1379, as you are all aware, is a comprehensive appropriations measure designed to address some of the very pressing issues faced by North Dakota. These issues include agriculture infrastructure, economic diversification research, workforce development, county and township bridges as well as legacy projects the funding for which will be a huge investment in North Dakota and its people both now and in the future.

Value-added projects are a key component for the agricultural industry in this state. HB 1379 provides political subdivisions the funds to properly supply the infrastructure needs for new or existing value-added ag businesses. You cannot have value-added ag enterprises if the location of the business isn't supported by the infrastructure needed for success.

Economic diversification research grants are essential for North Dakota to continue its economic success. Grants contained in HB 1379 will spur economic activity across the state through innovation, new technology, concepts, and products which will promote job creation as well as career and wage growth. The grants will enhance health care outcomes which will positively impact every citizen of the state.

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Economic diversification grants can also address the loss of revenue and jobs in communities with economies that depend primarily on the fossil fuel industry as well as provide experiential learning opportunities for students.

Workforce is always an issue in North Dakota no matter what the business. Enhancing workforce training and development will serve to further expand and enhance North Dakota's economy.

The funding for county and township bridge improvements is a much-needed upgrade for rural North Dakota infrastructure. In the agricultural world, for example, if there isn't the bridge funding necessary to transport machinery to a field for seeding as well as from the field for harvest economic opportunity is lost. One of the major competitive advantages North Dakota agriculture enjoys is our infrastructure. To remain competitive on the global state it is vital that our infrastructure be maintained.

With this mind the North Dakota Grain Growers Association urges the House Appropriations Committee give HB 1379 a Do Pass recommendation and would urge the full House to concur.