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February 6, 2023

Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 1455,

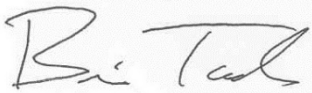
To: Chairman Headland, Vice-Chairman Hagert, Representatives Anderson, Bosch, Dockter, Finley-DeVille, Fisher, Grueneich, Hatlestad, Ista, Motschenbacher, Olson, Steiner, and Toman

As Dean of the College of Engineering and Mines at UND, I am writing to express support for House Bill 1455, relating to a sales and use tax exemption for materials used in the research and development of bioscience and biotechnology and the manufacture of bioscience and biotechnology products.

Our College's mission includes supporting the state's major industries and the development of new industries that diversify the state's economy. The bioscience industry is an important and growing sector for North Dakota and we support it through several of our academic and research programs. Our biomedical engineering program includes both graduate degrees, offered in conjunction with North Dakota State University, and an undergraduate degree launched this academic year. Central to each of these programs is the ability of our students to interact directly with companies in the bioscience industry and help them develop solutions to real-world problems. By working closely with industry partners, as well as with the Bioscience Association of North Dakota, we strive to enhance the bioscience ecosystem in North Dakota and create new employment opportunities for our graduates in the state.

I believe HB 1455, if passed, will provide incentives that not only attract new companies to North Dakota, but also strengthen our existing companies. A sales tax exemption would allow companies to make more significant investments into research and development, leading to improved technologies, better products, and greater potential for the long-term success of this industry.

Sincerely,



Brian Tande, PhD
Dean of the College of Engineering and Mines