



Contact:
Matt Perdue, Lobbyist
mperdue@ndfu.org | 701.641.3303

**Testimony of
Matt Perdue
North Dakota Farmers Union
Before the
Senate Appropriations Committee – Government Operations Division
March 9, 2023**

Chairman Wanzek and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1020. My name is Matt Perdue, and I am testifying on behalf of North Dakota Farmers Union's (NDFU) members. NDFU strongly supports HB 1020.

As passed by the House, HB 1020 addresses several needs. Increased funding for the Northern Crops Institute will bolster NCI's ability to create new market opportunities for farmers and ranchers. The funding provided for the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute will help our state adopt more innovative, cost-effective approaches to improving our transportation system.

Most importantly, HB 1020 would fund the establishment of a new Ag Field Lab Facility. This new facility will help NDSU attract and retain top quality scientists. It will make NDSU's research more efficient and effective. The Ag Field Lab Facility will help NDSU continue its proud tradition of providing world-class research for future generations of North Dakota farmers.

NDFU would like to highlight one opportunity to strengthen HB 1020. As part of the Cropping Systems Initiative, SBARE requested funding for a carbon credit specialist. The position would fill an important need for North Dakota's farmers and ranchers. A year ago, Farmers Union surveyed our members on educational topics they are most interested in; carbon was at the top of that list. Last month, we hosted the Evolution Ag Summit, an event focused on carbon reduction initiatives in food and agriculture supply chains. The discussion at that event made it clear that farmers and ranchers need more state-specific, objective, and trustworthy resources on carbon sequestration.

Carbon contracts can create real market opportunities for producers, but they also come with risks. Most information about carbon markets and other market-driven carbon incentives is provided by market players with clear profit motives. Public research and education will help more farmers and ranchers understand whether carbon contracts are an attractive opportunity for their unique situations. We encourage this committee to support that work with funding for a carbon credit specialist.

Thank you for your consideration. I will stand for any questions.