



## FMWF Chamber Letter of Support for HB 1020

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Chairman Wanzek and members of the Senate Appropriations - Government Operations Division:

For the record, my name is Katherine Grindberg and I have the pleasure of serving as the Executive Vice President for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo (FMWF) Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's mission is to be a catalyst for economic growth and prosperity for businesses, members, and the greater community. On behalf of our over 1,900 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of House Bill 1020, specifically as it relates to the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Services and North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station.

Agriculture is one of the foundational industries of North Dakota and much of the state's success can be attributed to the agriculture industry. As our state continues to lead the nation in multiple different commodities, it generates billions of dollars in gross business volume and accounts for thousands of jobs throughout the state. In order to compete on a global scale and remain an international leader in agriculture, our state must continue its strong support for NDSU Agriculture and Extension.

Programs and initiatives, like NDSU Extension's Cropping Systems Initiative and North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station's Plant Production and Protection Initiative, are pivotal for our state's continued success and improve the lives of all North Dakotans through innovative research, high-quality information sharing, and science based education. In addition to these programs and initiatives, investments in state-of-the-art facilities, such as the Field Lab Facility, are key to furthering modernized agricultural research in our state and allowing researchers to address the critical needs of the agriculture industry.

In closing, I would like to share The FMWF Chamber of Commerce's support for the continued investments into programs, initiatives, and capital projects, like those mentioned above, to advance our state's agriculture industry and the incredible economic and community impact that accompanies it.

On behalf of our members, I would like to thank the committee for their time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Katherine Grindberg  
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