

Chairman Wanzek and the Senate Appropriations Government Operations Committee,

My name is Kelly Klosterman, a producer from Richland Co, ND and a Director of the State Soil Conservation Committee. I am here in support of all of the SBARE initiatives, but two of the initiatives are very close to my heart and important to the producers of North Dakota.

SBARE Priority #2 on the research side of SBARE asks for \$400,000 in operating support for the Oakes Irrigation Research Site. The Oakes Research Site conducts vital research on irrigation strategies and farming practices for high value crops, particularly in the southeast region of our state. The potential economic impact and significance of this research for the state of North Dakota is imperative for irrigation expansion and development. Improving water use efficiency will in turn provide an economic value of water savings to producers, and a positive benefit to the environment of our state.

SBARE Priority #5 on the Extension side includes a request for \$300,000 for the State Soil Conservation operating support. The conservation of soil and soil resources is a vital element to sustainability in an agricultural state like ours. In addition, controlling and preventing soil erosion, controlling floods, and maintaining our reservoirs are all necessary to preserve our state's natural resources. In our effort to continue this work, local Soil Conservation Districts need additional funding to support conservation planning and technical assistance.

Thank you,

Kelly Klosterman