

Testimony for H.B. 1020 – Senate Appropriations Government Operations Division – 2023/25 session

Good morning.

My name is Greg Goodman, REC Advisory Board member for the Langdon Research Center. I am currently a 5<sup>th</sup> generation farmer, crop insurance agent, and a Cavalier County Commissioner. Thank you for taking the time this morning to listen to testimony on H.B. 1020. There are three main points that I wish to address with you regarding funding for the Langdon Research Center.

First, the 2021/23 legislative session approved funding for a pathology greenhouse at the Langdon REC. Due to COVID, ensuing supply chain disruption and inflation the greenhouse bids were way over authorization so the greenhouse was not constructed. It is our hope that carryover funding for this project remain in place to complete this building. We would also appreciate additional funding added to the project to offset the inflationary environment that has driven up the costs of construction. **Prior to carryover, the ND House of Representatives approved carryover funding and an additional \$251,430 to complete the Langdon REC greenhouse. On behalf of the advisory council we hope you will concur with the House.**

To compliment the existing and future crop disease research, we are also looking to fund one FTE Research Technician at our facility. This position is the number one priority by SBARE and would greatly enhance the ability for the Langdon REC to identify and understand the various crop diseases that continue to present challenges to ND production agriculture. **Prior to carryover, the ND House of Representatives approved one fte (\$176,000) and operating funds (\$74,000) to support the expanding plant pathology research program at the Langdon REC. Our location is the disease capital of ND and we request that you include the House recommendations and consider increasing operating funds for the Langdon REC in the Senate budget version.**

The number two SBARE priority is increasing operating funds for the main station and the REC's to offset cuts in operating due to budget shortfalls several sessions ago and recent inflation. **Prior to carryover, the ND House of Representatives approved \$180,000 in additional operating for the REC's and the main station. We ask that the senate would increase the operating to \$480,000 for the Rec's and the main station.**

Finally, the Langdon REC invested in specialized small plot equipment recently that needs to be cared for no different than many of the high-dollar machinery farmers operate today. This equipment expensive and is valuable to the continued research and seed production at the Center. We are asking you to fund seven equipment storage sheds (at each REC and main station) to store this equipment so it can stay out of the elements and extend the equipment's useful life. SBARE has indicated the need for this project in their capital project initiatives for several sessions. **Prior to carryover, the ND House of Representatives approved four of the seven equipment sheds (\$1,900,000) to adequately store specialized research equipment. We request that the senate would add the other three sheds to complete the project.**

Thank you for your time,

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