

**Testimony of Samantha Vangsness**  
Executive director, North Dakota Ethanol Producers Association

**In Support of HB 1379**  
March 22, 2023

Chairman Bekkedahl and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

My name is Samantha Vangsness, and I am the executive director of the North Dakota Ethanol Producers Association (NDEPA), which represents North Dakota's six ethanol plants and industry stakeholders. On behalf of NDEPA, I want to voice support for HB 1379, specifically the legacy earnings funding to the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority (CSEA) fund.

Thanks to North Dakota's innovative private sector and supportive state government, North Dakota's ethanol industry has been able to expand into various markets. Annually the industry converts 40-60% of the state's corn crop into more than 550 million gallons of ethanol, 1.5 million tons of high-value livestock feed (distillers grain), 2.4 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and 20 million gallons of corn oil used in renewable diesel. According to a recent study conducted by North Dakota State University, the ethanol industry contributes nearly \$1.7 billion annually to the state's economy and provides thousands of direct and indirect jobs.

The North Dakota ethanol industry greatly appreciates your establishment of CSEA during the 2021 Legislative Session. Over the past biennium, it has proven to be an effective tool in enhancing the production of clean sustainable energy, making the state a world leader in the production of clean sustainable energy, and diversifying and growing the state's economy. As implementation of the program continues, it will be essential to ensure all industries have equal access to the funding recognizing the numerous opportunities for all of the energy sectors.

Currently, the North Dakota ethanol industry produces 18 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> for every bushel of corn processed. While the rest of the nation has talked about carbon capture and sequestration, North Dakota's ethanol industry has led the nation in doing it. This has provided significant opportunities for the state's ethanol industry as well as creating positive economic impact to the state.

CSEA has played an important role in advancing numerous technologies that provide additional market opportunities and ensure sustainability for North Dakota's ethanol industry. Midwest AgEnergy received a CSEA loan for commercial deployment of carbon dioxide capture and geological sequestration at its Blue Flint plant near Underwood. It's carbon capture and storage project will be operational summer of 2023.

We thank you for your support of the state's ethanol industry. We urge your favorable consideration of HB 1379, specifically the funding for the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority.