

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1332**  
**Agriculture Committee**  
**January 23, 2025**

**Brandon Bochenski, Mayor**  
**City of Grand Forks, ND**

Chairman Beltz, members of the committee. Please accept my written and oral testimony in support of HB 1332.

North Dakota soils and our hard working farmers are highly competitive nationally in agriculture production in a variety of crops including potatoes. In order to maximize our important state assets we need to promote as many value-added processing facilities within our borders as close to production as possible. HB 1332 aims to do just that while making our business environment equally as competitive as our production on a national scale.

Processing facilities similar to what is proposed to be built by Agristo in North Dakota have a major positive economic impact where built, and also within the grower communities, as well as, on farm investment and storage. These impacts are felt during the construction phase and last for generations with reduced transportation costs and access to new markets.

Potato acreage itself can be some of the most profitable and a big economic driver for the local and regional farming communities. The State of North Dakota has lost significant potato acreage dating back to the eighties. We now have the opportunity to house three major potato processing companies within the state and gain back a large chunk of acreage lost over the past 40 years.

After three years of due diligence and test trials, Agristo has chosen North Dakota for a 450 Million Dollar production facility. Our distance from markets and logistical challenges require support both statewide and locally, and most importantly from our growers themselves. Thank you for your support in securing North Dakota as a world leader in not only agriculture production, but also ag-processing for generations to come.

Respectfully,  
Brandon Bochenski  
Mayor of Grand Forks