



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Favor of HB 1332
House Agriculture Committee
January 23, 2025**

Chairman Beltz, Members of the House Agriculture Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland representing the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). I appear here today in support of HB 1332 which seeks to enhance the Agriculture Diversification and Development Fund and create a new Value-Added Agriculture Production Facility Incentive Program. This legislation represents a significant investment in North Dakota's agricultural future and economic growth.

NDGGA believes this bill addresses several key priorities for North Dakota agriculture:

- It provides substantial funding (\$30 million) to attract large-scale value-added agriculture facilities to the state. This will create new markets and opportunities for North Dakota farmers.
- The focus on facilities that produce new agricultural products or variants will help diversify our agricultural economy and reduce reliance on traditional commodity markets.
- The requirement for regional producer capital investment ensures these projects will directly benefit North Dakota farmers and ranchers.
- The emphasis on industrial-ready sites with existing infrastructure will accelerate project timelines and maximize economic impact.
- The two-phase grant distribution process provides accountability while still offering meaningful upfront support for these major investments.
- Targeting facilities with competing offers from other states will help North Dakota remain competitive in attracting these transformative projects.

NDGGA is particularly supportive of the \$350 million minimum capital investment requirement. Projects of this scale have the potential to significantly reshape our agricultural economy and provide substantial new opportunities for producers. We also appreciate that this program complements, rather than replaces, the existing loan and grant programs in the Agriculture Diversification and Development Fund. This maintains

important support for smaller value-added projects while creating a new tool for attracting game-changing investments.

In conclusion, NDGGA believes this legislation represents a forward-thinking approach to agricultural development in North Dakota. It has the potential to create new markets, increase profitability for farmers and ranchers, generate jobs, and drive economic growth across the state.

Therefore, Chairman Beltz, Members of the House Agriculture Committee, NDGGA would urge the committee to give this bill a "do pass" recommendation and would hope the full House would concur.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.