

1/23/25

Chairman Beltz and members of the committee.

My name is David Fedje, I Am from Hoople, ND. I farm in and around the Hoople-Crystal area. I raise certified seed potatoes, yellow , red, round white and russet varieties. I also raise spring wheat , pinto beans, soybeans and canola. I am a board member of the Northland Potato Growers Association and also represent the North Dakota potato council on North Dakota State Seed Commision.

I am here to ask for your support on HB1332 to provide additional infrastructure funding for the 500 million dollar Agristo French fry processing plant to be built in Grand Forks North Dakota. Over the last 3 years, I have, and alot of our potato industry have had the privilege to get to know the Agristo family. The first thing the Agristo did was approach the farmers and get our thoughts on growing yellow potatoes for french fries, availability of land, and our area accepting a foreign company in our community. Agristo consulted with our local agronomists and growers and has 2 years of extensive variety trials in many different growing areas. The results in North Dakota were excellent. As we got to know the Agristo family it became apparent that our philosophy and theirs aligned. They have always said employees#1, growers#2 and customers #3.

I was fortunate to be asked to travel to Belgium and look at their operation. There we visited their factories, growers and the opportunity to see and interact with their culture. The factories were sophisticated, modern and extremely clean. No smells or clouds of smoke/steam out of factories. All the people we met were extremely courteous and open. The farmers we visited were open to us coming and seeing their operations, all had great relationships with Agristo.

I believe the impact of this plant will better North Dakota in many ways. A building of a new potato processing plant is a unique,if not, a once in generation opportunity. The adding of 25000 acres of potatoes gives farmers in North Dakota another profitable crop option. A surge in building and expansion would better many businesses. This is a great benefit for large communities and just as beneficial if not more for our rural small communities here in North Dakota.

I believe this is a great opportunity for North Dakota, North Dakota Famers, the ag industry and all surrounding communities.

Thank you.