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**Testimony of Doug Goehring  
Agriculture Commissioner  
House Agriculture Committee  
J-Wing 327C  
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Chairman Beltz, and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and I'm here today in support of House Bill 1332.

The agriculture diversification and development committee was created as part of the agriculture diversification and development fund (ADD) to provide grants and interest buy downs to projects meeting the requirements of ADD. To date, we have provided funding to 29 projects totaling \$5,888,921.00 in grants and \$15 million in interest buy downs on 19 projects on loans of \$126 million. Primary discussion surrounding HB 1332 is related to a major potato processing company that has a global footprint and wishes to establish a presence in North America. What I find impressive about the company is their commitment and due diligence. They've spent the last three years, studying the economic aspects, agronomy, soils, communities, culture, growers, and transportation. They have even done 2 years of field trials in both Wisconsin and North Dakota. I can truthfully say in all the years that I have worked with Companies and aware of Company activities that were interested in locating in North Dakota I have never seen this type of a thorough review by a company

before. Their decision has come down to culture, relationships, and a committed effort and potential partnership with the community and the state.

I believe they were truly impressed with how we came together to discuss challenges and opportunities; we were all very forthright in what the landscape looks like for their \$500 million investment in our state.

I believe the great deal of interest that was expressed by our growers and potential commitment of their own investment in the infrastructure they are committed to illustrate a true partnership could be built and would support them in anchoring a presence here in North America. By partnering with Grand Forks and the growers from 15 different counties I believe we can secure that presence here in North Dakota.

These grants have assisted in retaining and expanding value added agriculture in the State. The expansion of the ADD program to include value-added agriculture facility incentive funding is vital in recruiting large scale, value added agricultural processing to the State.

Chairman Beltz, and committee members, thank you for your time and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.