

Amanda Hegland
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Dear House Agriculture Committee,

My name is Amanda Hegland, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB1591, which provides critical funding to support county fairs through the County Fair Resiliency Grant Program. As a community member deeply involved in Eddy County 4-H, I believe this bill offers an invaluable opportunity to enhance our fairgrounds, particularly the static building, which serves as a vital space for 4-H members and the broader community.

County fairs play an essential role in North Dakota's 4-H program by offering youth a platform to showcase their hard work, learn important life skills, and foster community engagement. By participating in 4-H at the county fair, young people gain practical experience in leadership, public speaking, and problem-solving—all of which are key to their personal and professional development. Furthermore, county fairs help build strong local networks, bringing families, volunteers, and community members together to celebrate agriculture and youth achievements.

The proposed \$3 million in grants, with awards of up to \$100,000 per county fair association, would go a long way in improving the infrastructure of our county fairgrounds, ensuring that future generations of 4-H members have access to the resources they need to thrive. A remodel of our static building, for example, would not only enhance the educational experience for 4-H participants but also improve the fair's overall ability to host a variety of events, which in turn strengthens our community.

I urge you to support HB1591 and ensure that county fairs across North Dakota continue to provide valuable opportunities for youth development and community engagement. Thank you for your consideration, and for your continued dedication to supporting North Dakota's agricultural and youth programs.

Sincerely,

Amanda Hegland

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