



Dear Chairman Beltz and Members of the House Agriculture Committee,

On behalf of the Jamestown Area Chamber of Commerce and Jamestown Tourism, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 1591, the County Fair Resiliency Grant program. This bill provides essential funding to support county agriculture fair associations in North Dakota, ensuring the long-term viability of these critical community events.

Agricultural fairs play a vital role in our state's economy, culture, and tourism. They serve as a hub for showcasing North Dakota's agricultural heritage, supporting youth development through organizations like 4-H and FFA, and providing significant economic benefits to local businesses. Events like the Stutsman County Fair not only celebrate our agricultural roots but also bring in thousands of visitors, generating spending in our hotels, restaurants, and local businesses.

However, many county fairs face infrastructure challenges, with aging buildings, outdated facilities, and limited resources for expansion. HB 1591 addresses these concerns by appropriating \$3 million in one-time funding for infrastructure improvements, ensuring fairs across North Dakota remain sustainable and continue to serve their communities. With a maximum grant of \$100,000 per county fair association, this funding will have a direct impact by improving fairgrounds, enhancing visitor experiences, and supporting local economies.

Investing in county fair infrastructure is an investment in North Dakota's future. We respectfully urge this committee to give House Bill 1591 a "DO PASS" recommendation and support our state's agricultural fairs as they continue to grow, educate, and bring communities together.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Emily Bivens

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Bivens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a loop at the end of the last name.

Executive Director • Jamestown Area Chamber of Commerce • Jamestown Tourism