



Testimony in Support HB 1591
Presented to the House Agriculture Committee
Prepared by Bernie Dardis, Mayor, City of West Fargo
Thursday, January 30, 2025

Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture Committee:

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in support of House Bill 1591. The City of West Fargo has a long history of partnership with the Red River Valley Fair, whose grounds are located in our city's extraterritorial area. We support this grant program to provide funding for FFA and 4H infrastructure at county fair grounds and feel this will only serve to benefit the young people of West Fargo, Cass County, and across the state.

Cass County currently has 19 4H clubs and serves multiple FFA chapters in Districts 4 and 5. These programs are vital to educating young people about the importance of agriculture to our state and region, and provide roots to the next generation of leaders, not only for our ag industries, but across sectors and communities. I was a participant in both FFA and 4H!

Currently, these programs have a low cost of entry, less than \$10/student, which make them accessible to young people of all backgrounds. Providing grants for facilities can help to ensure the costs of participation remain affordable. Improving these facilities will also improve the overall quality of programming offered to students and visitors at the Red River Valley Fair. I encourage you to give HB 1591 a DO PASS recommendation and join county fairs across North Dakota in growing the next generation of farmers, industry professionals, and leaders.

Sincerely,

Bernie Dardis, Mayor
City of West Fargo
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