



Stutsman County Fair Association

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January 29, 2025

House Agriculture Committee
Mike Beltz, Chairman
And Members of the House Agriculture Committee
Testimony in Support of HB 1591

Dear Chairman Beltz and Committee Members,

As a member of the Stutsman County Fair Board, I understand the vital role fairs play in celebrating our communities, supporting youth development, and driving economic growth across North Dakota. In Stutsman County, we are celebrating our 127th year this summer.

Our facilities are aging and we face challenges in maintaining and improving our infrastructure to meet the needs of our community. Some of the most important current needs of our fair are ADA accessible bathrooms, a storm shelter, agricultural educational facility, roof repairs, concert stage, grandstand and concession updates. A long-term goal would be a year-round arena to be used for livestock, horse, Ag Expo, and other events.

Agriculture plays an essential role in our fair, showcasing North Dakota's agricultural diversity. From livestock competitions to crop displays and 4-H achievements, the Stutsman County Fair directly connects our community to the vital work happening on farms and ranches across our region. The improvements made through this grant would not only ensure the fair continues to thrive but would also allow us to better support future generations of agricultural leaders and innovators.

Stutsman County Fair has a yearly attendance of approximately 20,000 fair goers. This event celebrates our agricultural history by bringing thousands of families together through 4-H, FFA, Rodeo, show casing their livestock, horses, rabbits, chickens, art, flowers and baked goods. The attendees and exhibitors support local businesses from gas stations, to restaurants, hotels, and retail shops.

Stutsman County Fair is a nonprofit and relies on volunteers to manage and oversee all aspects of the fair. They are critical to the continued insurance that fair attendees have a family fun experience every year. In order to maintain a safe and healthy environment, we are in need of support from House Bill 1591. We have very limited private sponsorships.

I respectfully ask this committee to give House Bill 1591 a DO PASS recommendation to ensure the continued support of the Stutsman County Fair and others across the state.

Sincerely,

Rod Wilhelm
Board Member Stutsman County Fair