



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Favor of
HB 1020
House Education and Environment Division
January 15, 2025**

Chairman Nathe, Members of the House Appropriations Education and Environment Division, for the record my name is Dan Wogslund. I am here today on behalf of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association in support of HB 1020 especially as it pertains to the new attorney position contained in the budget.

NDGGA strongly supports the addition of a new attorney position within the Department of Water Resources as proposed in HB 1020. Water is a critical resource for our state's agricultural industry, and having adequate legal expertise within the department is essential for addressing the complex water issues that impact our members.

We believe this new attorney position will provide several key benefits:

1. Enhanced legal support for water projects and policies that affect agricultural producers
2. Improved ability to navigate federal and state water regulations
3. Stronger advocacy for North Dakota's water interests in regional and national forums
4. More efficient resolution of water rights and access issues

NDGGA views this position as a wise investment that will help protect and maximize our state's water resources for the benefit of agriculture and all North Dakotans. Therefore, Chairman Nathe, Committee members, NDGGA would respectfully request the Committee to support the inclusion of this new attorney position in the final appropriations for the Department of Water Resources and would hope that the full House Appropriations Committee and the full House concur.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.