



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Favor of HB 1009
House Appropriations Committee
Government Operations Division
January 14, 2025**

Chairman Monson, members of the House Appropriations Governmental Operations Division, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland representing the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. I appear before you today in support of HB 1009.

NDGGA would first like to commend North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Goehring as well as the entire North Dakota Department of Agriculture for all of your hard work and effort on behalf of North Dakota agriculture. It is this hard work and effort which helps North Dakota agriculture lead the world in food production.

Chairman Monson, Committee Members, NDGGA supports HB 1009 for the following reasons:

1. Budget Stability

- The bill maintains consistent funding without cuts to any agricultural programs
- Preserves all 80 full-time equivalent positions, ensuring continued service levels
- Demonstrates fiscal responsibility while maintaining essential agricultural services

2. Trade Support

- Continued funding for ND Trade Office is crucial for grain producers
- Includes export assistant program support
- 60/40 matching requirement ensures efficient use of funds while maintaining program effectiveness
- Helps maintain and expand international markets for North Dakota grain production

3. Research and Development Support

- Agriculture Products Utilization Commission funding supports:
 - Value-added agriculture research
 - New market development for grain products
 - Innovation in grain processing and utilization

4. Environmental Protection

- Environment and Rangeland Protection Fund supports:
 - Pesticide programs vital for grain production
 - Range protection beneficial for diverse agricultural operations
 - Minor Use Pesticide Fund transfer ensures access to necessary crop protection tools

5. Land and Resource Protection

- Pipeline restoration program protects farmland
- Wildlife Services program helps manage wildlife impacts on crops
- Water bank program matching funds supports water resource management

6. Regulatory and Safety Oversight

- Board of Animal Health funding maintains agricultural biosecurity
- Crop Harmonization Board supports standardization beneficial for grain marketing

This funding provides:

1. Market Access

- Trade office support helps maintain export markets
- Harmonization efforts support grain marketing
- Infrastructure for grain movement and sales

2. Production Support

- Pesticide program funding
- Wildlife management
- Land protection programs

3. Research and Development

- Value-added opportunities
- New market development
- Innovation support

4. Resource Protection

- Water resource management
- Land restoration
- Environmental stewardship

5. Regulatory Stability

- Maintained funding for oversight programs
- Consistent regulatory environment
- Continued technical support

HB 1009 provides a balanced approach to supporting North Dakota's agricultural sector while maintaining fiscal responsibility. This represents continued support for essential programs that benefit grain producers without increasing financial burden. The stable funding environment allows for long-term planning and continued program effectiveness across all aspects of grain production, marketing, and research.

Therefore, Chairman Monson, members of the House Appropriations Government Operations Division, the North Dakota Grain Growers Association is in support of HB 1009 and would urge this Committee, the full House Appropriations Committee as well as the full House of Representatives to concur.