



BioND

Bioscience Association of North Dakota
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Dear Chairman, Monson and Members of the House Appropriations Government Operations Committee;

The following is testimony to this Committee in support of HB 1009, "A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the agriculture commissioner; and to provide for a transfer", etc."

Most specifically I am here to testify in support of the Bioscience Innovation Grant Program portion of the Ag Budget. The Bio Innovation Grant program is a grant program that awards grants to biotechnology companies engaged in crop genetics, biofuels, biomaterials, biosensors and biotechnology in relation to food, nutrition, animals, humans, equipment, medical and health products and services, medical diagnostics, medical therapeutics and Ag based pharmaceuticals. The purpose of the BIG program is to foster the growth of the bioscience/bio tech industry in the State.

The goal of the Bioscience Association of North Dakota is similar to that of Bio Innovation Grant program, i.e. to foster the growth of the bioscience/bio tech industry in North Dakota. In partnership with the Department of Agriculture, the Bioscience Association expanded the Bioscience Industry in North Dakota through the Bio Innovation Grant program by making grants to companies either recruited from outside the State or by helping companies located in the State develop their technology and commercialize their products. To date, these companies have created or are projected to create 214 new jobs. The average salary for an employee in companies such as these is \$73,531 a year. Therefore, the State of North Dakota is slated to receive, or has received, at least \$15,735,634 a year in new salary benefits.

As Stated in an article published by the Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corp., December 19, 2022, By Meghan Feir Walker; "The Gross Regional Product (GRP) contributed by the bioscience industry in the Fargo-Moorhead MSA (alone) has grown from less than \$50 million in 2011 to over \$208 million in 2021. The growth of bioscience occupations in the FM metro has grown 40.9 percent in that same period, eclipsing the national growth rate of 23.4 percent."

But there is more to this story than the economic benefits that have resulted from supporting these companies. It is "WHAT" they are doing in this state that is having a nationwide, even a worldwide impact,

on the inside of the heart to help break up the electrical signals that cause irregular heartbeats. This can help the heart maintain a normal heart rhythm. The difference between this treatment and standard ablation treatment is that they use an MRI machine instead of an X-ray machine to watch the catheter as it progresses through the body and into the heart. It also allows more proficient positioning of the catheter in order to perform its burning or freezing. The success rate now is about 40% using the standard old method. The success rate utilizing this system is 90%. Imricor will move its R&D and manufacturing from Burnsville to North Dakota. This will create 40 to 50 new jobs in ND.

This is one of many companies that BioND is recruiting to the State. The Bio Innovation fund presents an incentive to these companies to move and also encourages local companies to expand their operations within this State.

It is the Association's hope that this Committee passes the Agricultural Budget with the \$12 million request to refund the Bio Innovation Fund program so that we can continue to expand and grow biotech companies.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Richard Glynn
Executive Director
Bioscience Association of North Dakota