

Chairman Monson and members of the House Appropriations – Government Operations Committee, I am Christian Miller, (Farm Manager) here to express my support of House Bill 1009, the budget of the agriculture commissioner.

I work for John Miller Farms in Minto, ND. We specialize in growing seed potatoes.

We typically ship potatoes in the spring and we have many loads that go up into Canada.

To ship seed potatoes into Canada, we are required to have our fields officially sampled for potato cyst Nematodes, to meet the import requirements. The department helps to coordinate, plan, and conduct the soil survey.

Once we begin to ship, each load of potatoes requires a phytosanitary certificate, also issued by department staff. If trucks are behind schedule or delayed, the department also makes themselves available to help ensure that the truck can get loaded and delivered in a timely fashion. Our shipping schedule is very busy and we don't want to have trucks waiting, the department is very good at keeping things moving.

We greatly appreciate the work of the department of agriculture. They care about the farmer and understand how we have a small window of opportunity to get things done. Whether it's in the field or getting product down the road.

Chairman Monson and committee members, thank you for your time. I encourage a do pass on HB 1009.