

Date: January 14, 2025

From: Winery Association of North Dakota (WAND)

- Robert Grosz, (dakotavineswinery@gmail.com), President WAND and Co-Owner Dakota Vines Vineyard and Winery
- Randy Albrecht (ralbre@live.com), Treasure WAND and Owner Wolf Creek Winery
- Lisa Cook (4ewinery@gmail.com), Secretary WAND and Co-Owner 4e Winery

Subject: Support for the Research Priorities for the North Central Research Extension Center in Minot, ND

The Winery Association of North Dakota (WAND) is pleased to voice our support for the research priorities for the North Central Research Extension Center (NCREC) in Minot, ND.

North Dakota's grape and wine industry represents a unique opportunity to combine our state's agricultural strengths with tourism and value-added production. Since its inception, the North Dakota Grape and Wine Program has partnered with NDSU to address critical challenges such as grape cold hardiness and quality winemaking. This research is essential for the industry's continued growth and ability to compete nationally.

The NCREC in Minot has played a pivotal role in this effort, offering first rate facilities, expert research teams, and ideal conditions to test and develop cold-hardy grape varieties. Their dedication to advancing this program has been crucial in fostering the growth of a robust and sustainable industry. However, this progress relies on sustained funding and support.

The Winery Association of North Dakota endorses the NCREC's funding priorities and their commitment to driving innovation and excellence in grape and wine research. We believe this investment will not only benefit our industry but also contribute to the broader agricultural success of our state.

Thank you for considering this vital initiative and for your ongoing support of agriculture and innovation in North Dakota.