



**In Support of SB 2020**  
**North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station**  
**Senate Appropriations – Government Operations Division**  
**Testimony of Drew Courtney**  
**January 16, 2025**

Chairman Wanzek and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity for the North Dakota Corn Growers Association to share our support of Senate Bill 2020.

For the record, my name is Drew Courtney. I farm near Oakes with my cousin, wife, and kids. I also serve on my township board. I am here today as a board member of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association, which is the voice of North Dakota corn producers, representing more than 13,000 growers across the state.

The National Corn Growers Association reports that between 1980 and 2015, our nation's corn farmers decreased the land required to produce a bushel of corn by 41 percent; reduced soil loss per acre by 58 percent; improved energy efficiency per bushel by 41 percent; reduced greenhouse gas emissions per bushel by 31 percent; and reduced per bushel irrigation water usage by 46 percent. But corn growers haven't made these sustainability gains on our own. We rely on partners in agribusiness, technology, and higher education to help us to achieve these efficiencies.

SBARE's Biofuels and Carbon Management priority for the Ag Experiment Station will further improve the sustainability and profitability of our operations. North Dakota-based research on practices like crop rotation, cover cropping, and efficient nutrient

management will help growers to reduce their carbon intensity. This is critical to participate in emerging renewable fuels markets, such as sustainable aviation fuel.

We also support the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies, which will help us better understand how national and international policies and markets impact North Dakota's agricultural sector.

Our mission statement is "growing a healthy, profitable business climate for northern corn," and research from the Ag Experiment Station is critical to help us meet that mission. We urge your support for SB 2020.

I will stand in response to any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration.