



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Favor of SB 2157
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee
January 16, 2025**

Chairman Luick, Members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland and I represent the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. I appear before you today in support of SB 2157.

SB 2157 represents a proactive and forward-thinking approach to addressing critical challenges in North Dakota's agricultural sector. The proposed study will evaluate the feasibility and benefits of a program that incentivizes farmers and ranchers to prioritize safety while also providing financial relief through reduced insurance premiums. Allow me to outline why this initiative deserves your support:

1. Promoting Safety in Agriculture

Agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries, with high rates of workplace injuries and fatalities. A structured safety course designed specifically for farmers and ranchers can equip them with the knowledge and tools to prevent accidents. By reducing risks, this initiative will not only save lives but also promote long-term sustainability within our agricultural communities.

2. Reducing Financial Strain

Insurance costs are a significant expense for farmers and ranchers. Offering a premium discount as an incentive for completing a safety course provides a tangible financial benefit while encouraging participation. This approach creates a win-win scenario: improved safety outcomes and lower costs for agricultural producers.

3. Collaboration Across Sectors

The study mandates input from key stakeholders, including the insurance commissioner, agriculture commissioner, North Dakota State University Extension Service, and insurance agencies. This ensures a well-rounded analysis that considers the diverse perspectives and

expertise necessary to design an effective program. It also provides an opportunity to strengthen partnerships across sectors that are vital to North Dakota's economy.

4. Support for Rural Communities

Our farmers and ranchers form the backbone of North Dakota's rural communities. By investing in their safety and well-being, we are investing in the long-term health and prosperity of our state. This study could pave the way for a program that enhances the quality of life for agricultural workers and their families.

5. Economic and Legislative Prudence

Conducting a study before implementing a program demonstrates fiscal responsibility and due diligence. By exploring the feasibility, costs, and potential benefits, the legislative assembly can make informed decisions that ensure effective use of state resources.

In conclusion, this bill is a thoughtful step toward creating a safer and more economically secure environment for North Dakota's agricultural producers. Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association would respectfully request that you to support SB 2157 and allow the study to move forward. The findings and recommendations will provide the foundation for a program that could have far-reaching positive impacts on our state's agricultural sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions.