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**NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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**Testimony of Madison Bodine
Ag Services and Development Specialist
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs
Fort Union
January 31, 2025**

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee, I am Madison Bodine, Ag Services and Development Specialist here on behalf of Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring in support of Senate Bill 2274 relating to the transition of authority to implement and oversee farm management programs to the Agriculture Commissioner.

The Farm Management Education program has a mission to provide education to owners and operators, or persons interested in farming. Through an individualized approach to each operation, instructors strive to provide financial education, insight, and tools necessary for farmers to advance their business management practices.

We have had an ongoing relationship with Farm Management Education instructors providing credit counseling services in times of high participation. The program fits well with the Agriculture Commissioner and the mediation services that he oversees. The mediation services were established to support financially distressed farmers and ranchers through assistance with credit and financial matters and to assist with dispute resolution.

Given our established relationship with the instructors, they have requested this move to the Agriculture Commissioner from the Department of Career and Technical Education. We have worked with Career and Technical Education and have received their blessing to create a smooth transition this legislative session.

We urge a do-pass on Senate Bill 2274 and would be happy to answer the questions you have. Thank you, Chairman Luick and committee members for your time.