

**Testimony of Rachel Retterath**  
**SB2327**  
**January 31, 2025**

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

I'm Rachel Retterath, I serve as the current Chair of the Agriculture Diversification and Development Fund (ADD) Committee who reviews ADD grant project applications and makes recommendation on funding. I'm an appointed member of the ADD Committee by the North Dakota Ag Commissioner. I grew up on a dairy farm, my husband and I currently farm and ranch on his family farm near Washburn/Center, ND and I work in business development and governmental affairs in the energy industry.

I am writing to encourage you to support SB2327 and the continuation of funding for ADD. ADD has made significant contributions to support new and expanding value added ag businesses across North Dakota since its inception two legislative sessions ago. Last year, there about 30 projects that received support through ADD funding. These investments are making it possible for small and large new or expanding businesses to happen which increase farming/ranching profitability, create new jobs and boost North Dakota's economy.

I'm proud to serve on this committee on behalf of North Dakota. It's an honor to be a part of helping these applicants expand and grow their businesses. There are many examples of projects that help family operations diversify and grow, allowing them to stay on farms and ranches and bring the next generation into the operations. Also examples of processing automation which increases efficiencies and safety, facilities that process our crops before they leave North Dakota to be processed elsewhere. These facilities bring many direct and indirect jobs as well.

ADD is a significant resource of funding help for agriculture producers and businesses that are embarking on new business ventures and investing their own capital into projects that benefit the growth of the agriculture industry in North Dakota focused on food and commodity processing facilities and production facilities, agriculture product

manufacturers and animal agriculture production facilities, including swine, poultry, dairy, and feed lot production facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2327.