



SENATE BILL NO. 2327  
SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
LARRY LUICK, CHAIR  
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2327

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee. I am Parrell Grossman, and it is my privilege to be the Legislative Director for the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association. I appear on behalf of the Association in support of Senate Bill 2327.

The Association advocates for more than 8,900 operations that raise soybeans in North Dakota. In 2024, North Dakota farmers planted 6.6 million acres of soybeans, producing over 245 million bushels of soybeans in North Dakota.

This Committee is aware, according to a 2022 North Dakota Agriculture Industry Economic Contribution Analysis conducted by NDSU, the economic contribution to North Dakota is \$30.8 billion, including \$18.8 billion from direct output and \$12 billion from secondary output.

The Association understands the importance of the agriculture diversification and development fund and enthusiastically supports the continuing appropriation in the re-enactment of section 4.1-01-07.

This section provides as follows: “Loans, interest rate buydowns, or grants under subsections 3 and 4 may be issued from the fund to support new or expanding value-added agriculture businesses that demonstrate financial feasibility, enhance profitability for farmers and ranchers,

create jobs, and grow the state's economy.” That is exactly what has been occurring with this program and fund.

This section further provides that “grants under section 4.1-01-27 may be issued from the fund for infrastructure improvements necessary for the development or expansion of new or existing value-added agriculture businesses. North Dakota now has two soybean crushing plants at Spiritwood and Casselton. And that benefits soybean farmers and so many others.

The agriculture diversification and development committee and the Bank of North Dakota seem to be doing an excellent job with this fund. The Association recommends the State keep funding this program and, maybe, in two years when the legislature is back in session, we will have moved the needle in the agriculture economy and NDSU will have a report in which the economic contribution to North Dakota has significantly increased.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for the reasons stated the Association respectfully asks the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee to give Senate Bill 2327 a “Do Pass” recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be pleased to try and answer any questions.