



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Support of SB 2327
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee
January 31, 2025**

Chairman Luick, Members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee for the record my name is Dan Wogsland representing the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 2327.

Supporting Value-Added Agricultural and Economic Growth

SB 2327 is a critical piece of legislation that strengthens North Dakota's commitment to value-added agriculture by enhancing the Agriculture Diversification and Development Fund. By expanding access to loans, interest rate buydowns, and grants for value-added agricultural businesses, this bill directly supports the financial feasibility of new and expanding operations. This funding will allow North Dakota farmers and agribusinesses to increase profitability, create jobs, and stimulate rural economic development.

The inclusion of various agricultural sectors including food production, commodity processing, and animal agriculture production facilities ensures that a broad range of industries can benefit from these investments. NDGGA recognizes the value of processing and marketing agricultural products within the state rather than exporting raw commodities. Value-added agriculture not only strengthens our supply chains but also improves price stability and profitability for farmers.

Infrastructure Investments for Agricultural Expansion

SB 2327's commitment to allocating up to \$10 million for agricultural infrastructure grants is particularly important for rural communities and agribusiness development. Modernized infrastructure including grain storage, transportation networks, and processing facilities is vital for ensuring the long-term competitiveness of North Dakota's agricultural sector. Investing in these resources will allow farmers to expand their operations, reduce transportation costs, and access new markets.

Encouraging Private and Public Sector Collaboration

The bill also emphasizes strategic partnerships between the Bank of North Dakota, local financial institutions, and the Agriculture Diversification and Development Committee.

By providing structured loan programs and interest rate buydowns, this legislation ensures that financing opportunities remain accessible and affordable for agricultural entrepreneurs. This collaborative approach maximizes the impact of state funds while leveraging private investment in the sector.

Conclusion

NDGGA supports SB 2327 because it provides much-needed resources to drive innovation, economic expansion, and increased profitability for North Dakota farmers. By facilitating value-added agriculture, improving infrastructure, and fostering collaboration between public and private stakeholders, this bill will position North Dakota as a leader in agricultural diversification and development.

Therefore, Chairman Luick, Members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee, NDGGA would respectfully request a Do Pass recommendation on SB 2327 and would urge the full Senate to concur.