

Testimony of Laura Lacher
North Dakota Ethanol Producers Association
In Support of SB 2327
January 31, 2025

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

I am Laura Lacher, the executive director for the North Dakota Ethanol Producers Association (NDEPA), which represents North Dakota's six ethanol plants, industry stakeholders and associated businesses. I am here today to voice support for HB 2327, which allocates \$25 million to the agriculture diversification and development (ADD) fund.

Thanks to North Dakota's innovative private sector and supportive state government, North Dakota's ethanol industry has been able to expand into various markets. Annually the industry converts 40-60% of the state's corn crop into more than 550 million gallons of ethanol, 1.5 million tons of high-value livestock feed (distillers grains), 2.4 tons of CO₂ and 20 million gallons of corn oil used in renewable diesel. North Dakota's ethanol industry also contributes nearly \$1.7 billion annually to the state's economy and provides thousands of direct and indirect jobs.

Since the creation of the ADD fund in the 67th Legislative Assembly, over 40 projects have been funded, including one at Tharaldson Ethanol in Casselton. This project implemented a selective milling technology system to improve efficiency and increase ethanol production per bushel of corn. The additional funds will assist ethanol and other industries in innovation and diversification in the future.

Thank you for your time, and I respectfully urge a "Do Pass" recommendation on SB 2327. I stand for any questions.