

Testimony in favor of SB2039

January 10, 2025

Loren Estad

Crystal ND

Chairman Headland and committee members.

I am in favor of SB2039 as presented. I have been involved in this exercise to fix the issues on what constitutes ag property and the raising of ag commodities. The language change in this bill addresses the concerns I have had. This will be the 3rd legislative session spend on trying to resolve this issue. I think this bill does that. I have testified numerous times on this issue and would appreciate a DO-PASS recommendation.

The exciting news this week of the Cavindish potato plant expansion at Jamestown of \$150,000,000 along with the announcement of Agristo to build a new \$450,000,000 potato processing plant in Grand Forks accelerates this bills need for passage. Both these plans will involve a major investment by farmers (I estimate \$250,000,000) to update and build new storages to house the increased production requirements. Most of these farmer storage investments will be made in or near our rural small towns, in some cases it may be the only commerce in that town. There will be cases where investments are moved across county lines because the taxing authorities interpret the law differently. Making it more important than ever that the action of this bill be passed this current session.

This bill is not a new exception but is a way to bring clarity and understanding as to how various taxing authorities interpret ag property, and to put inequality issues to rest.

Thank You