



**In Favor of SB 2333**  
**Senate Finance and Taxation**  
**January 29, 2025**

Chairman Weber and Committee members:

For the record, my name is Lesley Icenogle. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association (NDCGA) in favor of Senate Bill 2333.

As global production of corn increases, North Dakota corn farmers depend on robust demand for grain and value-added products for their livelihoods. Ethanol production allows half of North Dakota corn to stay in state and be processed into something more valuable. In years when the corn production quality is less than ideal, ethanol plants provide a critical market.

As more markets adopt low carbon fuel standards, ethanol plants must lower their carbon intensity scores to remain competitive. Canada, California, and Oregon have enacted such policies, and other states and countries are considering similar measures. International customers are asking for it. For corn growers, this is about economic realities, preventing market loss, and expanding future markets.

And now with the airline industry committed to the development and use of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), the race is on to meet the production demand. There are tremendous opportunities for an expanded market for North Dakota products like corn, soybeans, and sugar beets.

However, challenges remain. LanzaJet opened the world's first ethanol-to-SAF production facility in Georgia in early 2024. Even though we have ample domestic ethanol made from American corn, they are importing Brazilian ethanol because our ethanol currently does not have a low enough carbon intensity score.

SB 2333 will support ethanol production facilities to make capital improvements that lower their carbon intensity. This investment in value-added agriculture will benefit North Dakota producers, rural communities, and our state's economy.

The North Dakota Corn Growers urge a Do Pass recommendation on SB 2333. Thank you for your consideration, and I will stand for questions.