

**Testimony of Lance Gaebe**  
Executive Director

**In Support of 1475**  
**House Agriculture Committee**  
Feb. 5, 2021

Chairman Johnson and members of the House Agriculture Committee:

My name is Lance Gaebe, I am here on behalf of the North Dakota Ethanol Producers Association, which represents North Dakota's six ethanol plants and our industry stakeholders.

The Ethanol Producers Association supports the proposal in HB 1475 to enhance investment in emerging technologies and next generation agriculture opportunities. Expansion of sustainable and high value products and processes can lead to opportunities for agriculture that support high paying jobs and enhance economic activity.

North Dakota's ethanol industry already contributes more than \$623 million annually to the state's economy and provides thousands of direct and indirect jobs. The industry converts 200 million bushels of corn, representing half or more of the state's average corn crop, into 550 million gallons of ethanol, 80,000 tons of corn oil, and 1.5 million tons of dried distillers grains for livestock feed. We can do even more.

I want to offer an example of how we are adding even more value to an already clean energy product. Ethanol plants produce 18 pounds of nearly pure CO<sub>2</sub> for every bushel of corn processed. North Dakota ethanol plants are leading the nation in low carbon ethanol. The state Renewable Energy Council, along with private industry dollars, have invested in research to help commercialize emerging carbon dioxide capture technologies.

Capturing carbon improves the Carbon Intensity (CI) value of the ethanol as evaluated by several West Coast markets. Ethanol produced with a lower CI score is differentiated from other ethanol and is worth more in California and Oregon due to those states' Low Carbon Fuel Standards. The potential for this project and other added value efforts brings more wealth to North Dakota.

We thank you for your support of the state's ethanol industry in the past and urge your favorable consideration of HB 1475, which can support additional investments in agriculture diversification and processing enterprises. The state's ethanol producers appreciate your affirmative consideration.