



## **North Dakota Grain Growers Association Testimony in Support of HB 1431 House Appropriations Committee February 1, 2021**

Chairman Delzer, members of the House Appropriations Committee, for the record my name is Tom Bernhardt; my family and I operate a diversified farming and ranching operation in Linton, North Dakota. I am also the President of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. I appear today in both roles in support of HB 1431 as it pertains to the Ag Products Development Center.

Chairman Delzer, members of the House Appropriations Committee, my family and I are very proud of our farm and our agricultural heritage in North Dakota. My wife, Tamie, and I are bringing our family back to the farm because of the opportunities it affords them for their futures. As all of you are very aware, agriculture, as in many businesses, is a very competitive occupation. You need as much “going for you” as you can which leads me to my support for the Ag Products Development Center.

In order to stay competitive in today’s global economy, today’s farmers need all of the support they can get. The Ag Products Development Center will not only maintain that support it will enhance that support by providing world class facilities to our already world class faculty and staff. This will allow cereal sciences, meat sciences, and the Northern Crops Institute to continue to make North Dakota agriculture the best in the world. Additionally, the Ag Products Development Center will allow for better retention and recruitment of the staff which only enhances critical agricultural research in this state.

As a vital component of the North Dakota economy; overall the state needs this. To maintain North Dakota agriculture’s leading edge in world agriculture, we need this. For myself and my family to stay successful, we need this.

*"You Raise; We Represent"*

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Therefore, Chairman Delzer, members of the House Appropriations Committee, I request from myself, my family and the North Dakota Grain Growers Association that you give HB 1431 a Do Pass recommendation regarding the Ag Products Development Center and would ask that the full House concur.