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**Testimony of
Matt Perdue
North Dakota Farmers Union
Before the
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
March 25, 2021**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4007 and Senate Bill No. 2282. My name is Matt Perdue, and I am testifying on behalf of North Dakota Farmers Union's (NDFU) members.

NDFU supports SCR 4007 and SB 2282, which adds the agriculture commissioner to the Board of University and School Lands. If approved by voters, this change would give farmers and ranchers a stronger voice in the management of the state's trust lands.

The State of North Dakota currently manages more than 700,000 surface acres. The vast majority of these acres are rented by farmers and ranchers, primarily for grazing purposes. As a result, the major source of income derived from surface leases comes from the state's farmers and ranchers, making them an important stakeholder in trust lands management.

As a major stakeholder group, the agriculture community should be represented in management of university and school lands. To that end, we support giving the agriculture commissioner a seat on the Board of University and School Lands.

We urge a "Do Pass" on SCR 4007 and SB 2282. Thank you for your consideration.

