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**HB 1394 Testimony
Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner
Senate Appropriations Committee
March 19, 2021**

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, for the record, I am Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here to support HB 1394 and explain the request for \$5.5 million in authority.

This request is for federal fund spending authority only. The USDA was appropriated funds that are earmarked for state departments of agriculture. This \$5.5 million comes from those funds for the Specialty Crop Block Grant and the ND Mediation Service. Authority for these requests could be placed in HB 1009 if the committee so chooses.

I would also like to outline a request to continue two of the programs that were funded with the first CARES Act funds. First, the ND Meat Processing Plant Cost-Share Program, it has increased processing capacity which is beneficial to consumers and producers.

Second, the Bioscience Innovation Grant Program for Coronavirus Research which included projects relating to antibody therapeutics, immunotherapies, antibody testing, rapid test device for use by individuals or companies, inspection and decontamination equipment.

I would like to request the committee consider reallocating \$20 million to continue the ND Meat Processing Plant Cost-Share Program and \$15

million for Bioscience Innovation Grant Program for Coronavirus Research.

Chairman Holmberg and committee members, thank you for your consideration of my requests. I will stand for any questions.