

**Testimony to North Dakota Senate Appropriations Committee**  
**March 9, 2023**  
**North Dakota State University**  
**NDSU Agriculture Experiment Station & Research Extension Centers**

Good morning, my name is Mike Ostlie, the director of the Carrington Research Extension Center. Chairman Wanzek and Senate Appropriations Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to address your committee.

The staff of the Carrington Center are proud to be a part of the network of RECs and Main campus researchers and Extension specialists who work with crop and livestock producers to address the needs of today's agriculture. CREC researchers routinely collaborate with recently supported initiatives including the Big Data, Microbiome, and Precision Ag Initiatives. These collaborations are already greatly advancing our ability to answer complex questions about North Dakota production agriculture.

The Carrington Center would like to extend thanks for past support of capital projects to enhance our livestock research capabilities. These projects are critical to the future of North Dakota's livestock industry, in particular with regards to utilization of feedstuffs generated by the growing biofuels industry as well as the promotion of expanded opportunities for livestock production in the state. The current version of HB1020 has included a time extension on existing funds and an increase to the funds for projects that received bids that were too high or no bids over the past year. We ask for continued support of these efforts through approving the current version of these projects within of HB1020.

South-east and south-central North Dakota has the most heat units available for many of our row crops, including dry beans, corn, and soybeans, allowing producers to plant the highest maturity varieties or hybrids in the state. This region is critically served by CREC, off-station locations, along with its Oakes Irrigation Research Site. We ask for your support to fully fund AES SBARE Priority #2 in order to meet the demand of increased operational support to counter inflationary pressures and specifically to support the Oakes Irrigation Research Site. This site provides valuable dryland and irrigated reference data to some of the highest yielding corn and soybean acres in the state, including variety performance, water use efficiency, microbial inputs for nitrogen and phosphorous, and plant disease mitigation. The OIRS was partially supported through HB1020. Full funding for the research site will provide immediate impact which coincides with recent upgrades to the site and planned enhancements that have been supported through other local and state resources. When all aspects are working in unison the OIRS will be well positioned to continue high impact research, especially into corn and soybean variety and input testing. Recent broad promotion of biological and alternative inputs has emphasized the importance of unbiased research, in which OIRS is well equipped to handle.

Agronomy research and Foundation Seedstocks programs have expanded over the past decade at CREC. This has resulted in research and field equipment storage that is inadequate. We are asking for your assistance improving our storage capacity through fully supporting the storage

shed capital improvement project so that our equipment can be stored out of the elements and away from rodent exposure where many items currently reside. Thank you for your time today.

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