



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Support of SB 2327
House Agriculture Committee
March 13, 2025**

Chairman Beltz, Members of the House Agriculture Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland representing the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). The North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA) appears before you today to express its strong support for Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2327. We believe this legislation is crucial for the continued growth and prosperity of North Dakota's agricultural sector.

Key Points of Support:

Strengthening Value-Added Agriculture:

- * The bill's focus on supporting new and expanding value-added agriculture businesses is vital for diversifying our agricultural economy. By encouraging food production, processing, and manufacturing within the state, we can increase the value of our raw commodities and create new market opportunities for North Dakota's grain growers.
- * The inclusion of animal agriculture production facilities, such as swine, poultry, and dairy, recognizes the interconnectedness of our agricultural sectors and the potential for synergistic growth.

Enhancing Profitability for Farmers and Ranchers:

- * The bill's emphasis on projects that enhance profitability for farmers and ranchers aligns directly with the NDGGA's mission. By supporting value-added businesses that provide stable markets and fair prices for our members' products, this legislation will contribute to the long-term economic sustainability of our farms.

Job Creation and Economic Growth:

- * The investment in value-added agriculture will create new jobs in rural communities and stimulate economic growth throughout the state. This is particularly important for maintaining the vitality of our agricultural regions and attracting young people to careers in agriculture.

Efficient Fund Management and Oversight:

* The bill's provisions for the Bank of North Dakota to manage loan programs and the Agriculture Commissioner to oversee grant distribution ensure responsible and efficient use of public funds.

* The agricultural diversification and development committee oversight and the annual audit of the fund are very important for accountability.

* Infrastructure Grants for Political Subdivisions:

* The allocation of up to \$10,000,000 for agriculture infrastructure grants to political subdivisions under section 4.1-01-27 is very important. Infrastructure improvements are often a critical need for value added agriculture development, and this portion of the bill is very well received.

Appropriation and Transfer:

* The appropriation of \$15,000,000 to the Agriculture Diversification and Development Fund is a significant investment in the future of North Dakota agriculture.

Conclusion:

NDGGA believes that Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2327 represents a strategic investment in the future of North Dakota agriculture. By supporting value-added businesses and infrastructure development, this legislation will create new opportunities for North Dakota agriculture, strengthen our rural communities, and enhance the overall economic prosperity of our state. We urge the Legislative Assembly to pass this important bill. Thank you for your consideration and NDGGA would respectfully request a Do Pass recommendation.