



Testimony of Jeff Zueger
North Dakota Ethanol Producers Association
In Support of Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute Budget Request
March 11, 2025

Chairman Monson and Members of the House Appropriations – Government Operations
Division:

My name is Jeff Zueger, CEO of Harvestone Low Carbon Partners (formally known as Midwest Ag Energy) which owns two plants in North Dakota, Blue Flint in Underwood and Dakota Spirit in Spiritwood. I also serve as a director on the North Dakota Ethanol Producers Association (NDEPA) board. On behalf of NDEPA, we strongly support a CO₂ study to develop a transportation network model—including pipeline, rail, truck, and transload—to move captured CO₂ to sequestration or utilization sites.

Carbon management is critical for ethanol producers to remain competitive in low-carbon markets like sustainable aviation fuel. As stated in North Dakota Century Code 38-22-1, “it is in the public interest [of North Dakota] to promote the geologic storage of carbon dioxide.” Former Governor Burgum’s vision for carbon neutrality by 2030 requires a reliable CO₂ transport system, yet key infrastructure gaps remain.

This study, led by UGPTI, will assess sources, multimodal transport options, and potential hubs, incorporating a real-world case study of a North Dakota ethanol plant to evaluate infrastructure needs and challenges. With federal funding opportunities available, a strategic plan will give North Dakota a competitive edge in securing investments for carbon capture and utilization.

We urge your support and appreciate your time.