

March 24, 2025

Jeff Stachler

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee,

This is Jeff Stachler, former NDSU Extension Griggs County Agent and Griggs County Fair Association member and current Griggs County Fair Association volunteer and I support HB1591.

I arrived at the NDSU Extension Griggs County Agent in September 2020. I resigned from my position September 30, 2024. During this time period the Griggs County 4-H Program grew to a total membership of 96 4-H members! We wanted to start an 4-H archery program back in 2022 to 2023 4-H year, but there was no place for us to practice. In 2023 to 2024, we kicked off the first Griggs County 4-H Archery Special Interest Group and began competition because we paired with the Griggs County Central School NASP program where they were practicing. That location will no longer allow archery practices and the location this year for NASP was damaged from the winter leaving no space for archery students and 4-H member in Griggs County to practice.

The growth in Griggs County 4-H membership also occurred in regular community clubs resulting in a significant increase in 4-H exhibits to the point of housing the goats and sheep under a tent the last two years. There is not enough space for all of the animal exhibits! In addition due to poultry exhibiting rules, the Griggs County 4-H members having poultry exhibits have not been allowed to have their animals at the fair due to this lack of space.

The Griggs County Fair Association has been trying to provide a new location for these practices to occur along with many other community activities, but doesn't have the funds to construct the type of building the community needs to have many activities!

The Griggs County Fair Association is interested in constructing a new multi-purpose building providing more space for 4-H animal and static exhibits, additional fair association activities, a large wedding and meeting venue for the county, space for the Griggs County 4-H Shooting Sports program, Griggs County Central School National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), an indoor shooting practice location for the Griggs County Wildlife Club, and many other community-wide activities throughout the year. However, the Griggs County Fair Association currently does not have sufficient funds to complete this construction project. The money from HB 1591 will significantly assist in the construction of a new multi-purpose building benefiting many Griggs County citizens,

We also request the funding match be less than 1:1 making it easier to obtain the entire \$100,000 grant without securing \$100,000 of local money.

I greatly appreciate the creation of HB1591 and fully support the passage of this bill to support the Griggs County Fair Association, Griggs County 4-H program, and Griggs County citizens. Please vote yes for HB1591.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Stachler". The signature is fluid and written in dark ink.

Jeff Stachler

Former NDSU Extension Griggs County Agent and Griggs County Fair Association member and current Griggs County Fair Association volunteer