

**Chairman Luick and Honorable members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans**

**Affairs Committee:** For the record, my name is Rachel Grosz, I am testifying on behalf of North Dakota Farm Bureau (NDFB). It is my pleasure to extend NDFB's support of HB 1332, which will create a value-added agriculture facility incentive program.

NDFB represents 28,000 member-families across our state. Farmers and ranchers in all sectors of agriculture create and drive our policy, making it truly grassroots. Our members have consistently adopted policy which supports producers' efforts in diversification, expansion, and vertical integration or added-value for operations of all sizes.

Additionally, we are cognizant of the positive impact large-scale processing and infrastructure have on the broader agriculture industry and on our state's economy. NDFB policy is reflective of the goals outlined in the bill before you; we would like to echo the sponsors' desire to enhance the opportunities for value-added facilities, and ultimately, opportunities for ag producers' viability.

NDFB commends the sponsors for their dedication to advancing North Dakota's agricultural and economic future. Their commitment to strengthening opportunities for North Dakota agriculture demonstrates understanding of the challenges our farmers and ranchers face, as well as a proactive approach to enhancing the vitality of our industry. Keen recognition of the need for targeted support for value-added processing will help ensure North Dakota's agricultural economy remains resilient for generations to come. The bill reflects a dedication to fostering innovation, sustainability, and growth within our state's most vital industry—agriculture.

The Agriculture Diversification and Development Fund (ADD), administered by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture has been a great success over the last several years. This bill's provisions for expanding the ADD's reach will continue to benefit our state's producers. By strengthening the ADD, we are assuring ND producers can continue to provide high-quality products to consumers. In tandem with individual producers' success, this initiative makes our state a desirable place to do business: attracting international engagement and investment, creating jobs, and fostering resiliency in our rural communities.

Additionally, this bill is a critical piece in preserving the relevance of North Dakota's agricultural products in an increasingly complex and competitive global market. With these considerations, I appreciate your time and respectfully urge a "do-pass" recommendation from your committee.

Respectfully,

Rachel Grosz  
Government Affairs NDFB

**Fargo**

1101 1st Ave. N. | PO Box 2064, Fargo, ND 58107-2064  
Phone: 701-298-2200 | 1-800-367-9668

**Bismarck**

4900 Ottawa St. | PO Box 2793, Bismarck, ND 58502-2793  
Phone: 701-224-0330 | 1-800-932-8869