Contact:
Matt Perdue, Lobbyist
mperdue@ndfu.org I 701.641.3303

**Testimony of
Matt Perdue
North Dakota Farmers Union
In Support of HB 1332
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee
March 20, 2025**

Chairman Luick and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1332. My name is Matt Perdue, and I am testifying on behalf of North Dakota Farmers Union's (NDFU) members. NDFU supports HB 1332.

This bill would create a new value-added facility incentive program within the Agricultural Diversification and Development (ADD) fund. HB 1332 establishes a process for responsible state investment for an exciting new potato processing facility. That process includes:

1. Vetting investments through the ADD Committee to ensure the project meets the requirements established by the legislature, including a strong economic contribution to the state;
2. Providing a $15 million incentive to a value-added agriculture facility *after* the facility completes construction; and
3. Providing another $15 million *after* the facility reaches 50% of its production capacity.

This legislation is intended to support development of a new $450 million yellow potato processing facility in the northeast corner of the state. That facility will significantly increase demand for potatoes in the region, creating important new opportunities for North Dakota farmers. The project would be a major boost to the regional and state economy.

As noted above, HB 1332 requires the ADD Committee to vet the eligible project. The ADD fund is one of North Dakota's unique tools for developing value-added agriculture in our state. Since its establishment in 2021, it has helped secure dozens of projects, including local meat processors, ethanol facilities, craft malting, pea flour processing and more. The ADD Committee has demonstrated a strong ability to direct wise investments that benefit agriculture and the broader economy.

We respectfully request a "Do Pass" recommendation on HB 1332. I will stand for any questions.