



STUTSMAN COUNTY

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March 7, 2025

Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs
Senator Larry Luick, Chairman
and Member of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee
Testimony in Support of HB 1591, with revision

Dear Chairman Luick, Vice-Chair Myrdal, and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my support for HB1591, which aims to provide grant funding for county fairs and agricultural events in North Dakota. The passage of this bill in the House was a crucial step toward strengthening our local fairs, which serve as vital community and economic drivers. However, I would like to express my concerns regarding the passed revision requiring a dollar-for-dollar matching fund requirement.

While I understand the importance of ensuring that grant recipients have a vested interest in these projects, a strict one-to-one match could inadvertently limit the ability of smaller county fairs to fully benefit from the program. Many smaller fairs operate on tight budgets with limited fundraising capabilities, making it difficult to meet such a high matching threshold. As a result, this well-intended grant program may become inaccessible to the very communities that need it the most.

I respectfully urge consideration of a tiered or reduced matching requirement, allowing for flexibility based on the size and financial capacity of each fair. This would ensure that all county fairs, regardless of their financial standing, can access funding to improve facilities, enhance programming, and continue serving their communities.

Thank you for your time and dedication to supporting our local fairs and agricultural heritage. I appreciate your consideration of this request and your commitment to strengthening rural communities across North Dakota.

Thank you kindly for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Hastings
Stutsman County Commissioner
ahastings@stutsmancounty.gov

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Chad Wolsky – Jamestown
Levi Taylor – Ypsilanti
Michael Hansen – Montpelier
Amanda Hastings – Jamestown

County Officials

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Maureen Pederson – Treasurer/Recorder
Tyler Perleberg – Tax Director
Fritz Fremgen – States Attorney
Chad Kaiser – Sheriff

Josh Smaage – Dir. Of Information Technology
Shannon Davis – Human Resource Director
Mandi Freije – Human Service Zone Director
Chad Jackson – Jail Administrator
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David Bratton – Veterans Service Officer
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Ashley Kjellberg – Extension Agent
Brenda Jarski-Weber – Extension Agent