



Testimony for:

ND State Board of Agricultural Research and Education

Perry Turner, NDCCA President

McIntosh County Commissioner

November 19, 2019

Greetings State Board of Agricultural Research and Education (SBARE) members, I am writing on behalf of the North Dakota County Commissioners Association (NDCCA). NDCCA stands in support of the state funding necessary for NDSU Extension to provide research and assistance to the residents living in our 53 counties.

In every county, agriculture is significant to the local economy, and NDSU Extension is a significant resource that provides support, training, technical assistance, education and promotion of agriculture. From chemical application training to engaging youth through 4-H; the services Extension Agents provide are important to counties large and small. Our counties especially recognize the value of extension agents in providing unbiased consultation, independent of any agricultural company, and use local research to assist farmers and ranchers.

As you are well aware, NDCCA and NDACo were strong advocates this past legislative session, urging lawmakers to restore funding to NDSU Extension to retain local Extension services in all counties. Those efforts were successful. Our counties are strong supporters of NDSU Extension, which is why in 2018 NDCCA voted to make temporary adjustments to the funding formula to help NDSU Extension continue to support our state. The short-term formula change shifted additional costs to counties. This was a one-year agreement only. That adjustment resulted in counties paying an additional \$820,000 to support Extension. Which is why we stressed the importance of restoring funding to legislators and returning to a more equitable funding formula.

As you assess your priorities for the upcoming legislative session, we encourage you to highlight the importance of adequate state funding to preserve the quality of services available in every county.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Perry A. Turner', is written in a cursive style.