

Northern Plains
POTATO GROWERS ASSOCIATION



November 13, 2019

SBARE
NDSU Dept. 7520
PO Box 6050
Fargo ND 58108-6050

RE: Daryl Ritchison's NDAWN Initiative funding request

Greetings,

The North Dakota Agriculture Weather Network (NDAWN) is a critical tool for the agriculture industry to use in planting, growing, treating and harvesting the crops grown across North Dakota. Numerous stakeholders utilize the real-time data NDAWN provides including farmers, researchers, elevators, fertilizer and nutrient companies, fuel operations and so many more. The Northern Plains Potato Growers Association, a grower member organization of over 200 potato growers, strongly supports Mr. Ritchinson's request for funding to upgrade the current system.

NDAWN is a critical part of protecting potatoes. It was built around the potato late and early blight models. Because late blight can quickly destroy a potato crop it is important for growers to know when conditions are favorable for blight. Growers use this model to help manage their crop. The current status of NDAWN is the system is very old and needs to be updated. That is why an additional programmer will help.

Please consider and approve this funding request that benefits the number one industry across North Dakota – agriculture! Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Donavon Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donavon Johnson
President