

From: owner-ndsu-sbare@listserv.nodak.edu on behalf of 00000f991a64ec7b-dmarc-request@LISTSERV.NODAK.EDU
To: ndsu.sbare@ndsu.edu
Subject: Letter of Support
Date: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 7:53:42 AM
Attachments: [Letter of Support from Oakes Community for Oakes Irrigation Site.pdf](#)

Good morning -

Attached is a letter of support from the community of Oakes to support SBARE's consideration of funding the Oakes Irrigation Research Site in the 2023-2025 biennium.

Please contact me with any additional questions.

Rebecca Udem

Executive Director, Growing Small Towns

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December 29, 2021

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

To the Board of Directors of SBARE:

I am writing this letter to show our support for the prioritization of funding the Oakes Irrigation Research Site by SBARE in the 2023-2025 biennium.

As the Executive Director of the organization contracted to do economic development in the city of Oakes, I believe this research site to be a highly underappreciated, underutilized, and potentially, even misunderstood asset to the region.

At the 2017 biennium, my father, Tom Rodine, a 4th generation farmer, testified to your committee in Bismarck, resulting in the operational funding of this site being placed as the 2nd highest priority for SBARE in the 2017-2019 biennium.

At that time, the Oakes Irrigation Site had been funded through the Garrison Conservancy District and it was clear that this funding would no longer be available in the future. That future has now arrived and without your funding, Garrison Conservancy District will fully divest from this project, forcing the only state-funded research site in southeast North Dakota to close, abandoning decades of successful research.

The research conducted on the site is accessed by multi-global companies to support the development and innovation of dozens of agricultural inputs. This research facility, if allowed to not only remain open but also improved to keep pace with other facilities of its type, positions Oakes and the southeast region of North Dakota as an agricultural hub for innovation and advancement.

We strongly support SBARE's full operational support for the Oakes Irrigation Site and if it's allowed to remain operational, our organization would take a more active role in advancing and promoting the work of the research site as well as educating the agricultural community of the value of having this site in Oakes.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Udem
Founder and Executive Director, Growing Small Towns