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NORTH DAKOTA DRY BEAN COUNCIL

November 4, 2021

Mark Birdsall (SBARE Chair)
The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education (SBARE)
NDSU Dept 7520
P.O. Box 6050
Fargo ND 58108-6050

Re: North Dakota Dry Bean Council written testimony SBARE recommendations.

Dear Mr. Mark Birdsall,

I would like to start by thanking SBARE for the support and commitment shown towards the research and education needs of North Dakota agriculture. SBARE provides the agriculture community of North Dakota an outlet to the state Legislature and Governor to make recommendations to ensure the needs of agriculture is heard.

The North Dakota Dry Bean Council is proud to participate and provide feedback for the needs of dry bean growers in North Dakota. In 2021, North Dakota State University (NDSU) hired a new pulse crop plant pathologist, Dr. Malaika Ebert. The research and extension appointment is vital to furthering our plant health and education of the farmers that grow dry beans in the state. I would strongly encourage a technical assistant hire to assist Dr. Ebert in her efforts to support pulse crops. There are 17 unique crop classes that this researcher is focusing on: dry pea, lentil, chickpea, lupin, fava bean, pinto bean, black bean, dark red kidney, light red kidney, pink, small red beans, cranberry bean, great northern bean, white kidney bean, and navy beans. Due to the complexity in number of crops, number of diseases (30+) and the vast territory of over 600 miles, we would encourage the hiring of additional technical support.

The North Dakota Dry Bean Council has focused on Soybean Cyst Nematode research for quite some time. We would like to request a need for additional space to include a nematode cleaning room. This would help the NDSU nematode researchers with their requirements and efficiencies. Lastly, we would like to voice our support for the Waldron Hall replacement project. Waldron Hall was home to 19 research scientist when it opened and now houses 45 research scientist expressing the need for new facilities to correctly house NDSU research staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mitch Coulter".

Mitch Coulter
North Dakota Dry Bean Council
Administrator
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Fargo, ND 58104
701-365-5103
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