

Cavalier County Job Development Authority

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11/8/23

Dear State Board of Agricultural Research and Education Board Members:

The Cavalier County Job Development Association board members would like to provide testimony in support of a much-needed modernized foundation seed conditioning facility to be located on the campus of the Langdon Research Extension Center (LREC). The LREC's nine-county service area supports a high level of cropping systems agriculture where demand for seed is very high. In addition, recent changes in cropping system enterprises require modernized seed conditioning equipment. Finally, scale weighing upgrades as demanded by the North Dakota Public Service Commissioner make it imperative to complete this effort soon.

The region served by the LREC produces the highest level of registered and certified seed in ND. Much of that seed is dependent on foundation grade seed coming from the LREC. The LREC foundation seed program has been in existence since 1962 and has sold foundation grade seed to over 133 growers and/or other seedsman in just the last 10 years. A new conditioning plant will allow this mission to continue into the future.

In the last seven years our region's producers have added peas, faba beans, dry beans and soybeans to their rotations. Unfortunately, the old conditioning plant at the LREC is unable to condition peas, soybeans, faba beans and other pulse crops. A new conditioning facility would allow conditioning of all crops demanded by growers in our region.

A recent inspection from the North Dakota Public Service Commission revealed the 50-foot scale currently used by the LREC for foundation seed sales is non-compliant with today's standards (for weighing semis). The LREC was given a five-year waiver allowing them to legally split weigh semis. After five years the scale must be increased to 80 feet long. The \$200,000 cost to bring the scale into compliance may not be worth the expenditure if the seed conditioning plant is not modernized.

The Cavalier County Job Development Authority board members unanimously support this project and ask that SBARE consider this as a high priority for North Dakota agriculture. The Cavalier County Strategic Plan includes seven benchmarks, one of which is agriculture. Projects like this ensure that the plan's goals of continued growth and meeting the needs of local producers are met.

Sincerely,

Cavalier County JDA Board Members
Attachment: CCJDA Board Member list

Cavalier County Job Development Authority 2023

Name	Occupation	Office	Term Ends	Committee
Anitha Chirumamilla	Cropping Systems Specialist	Board Member	12/31/2023	Agriculture
Patrick Rime*	Vice President of Farmers and Merchants State Bank	Treasurer	12/31/2023	Agriculture
Austin LaFrenz	Business owner and county commission	Board Member/County commission spot	12/31/2023	Business Development
Marcus Lewis*	CEO of Park River hospital	Vice-Chair	12/31/2023	Business Development
Duane Otto*	retired manager of rural electric co-op	Secretary	12/31/2023	Business Development
Kyle Moen	business owner, contracting/carpentry/city commissioner	Board Member	12/31/2023	Community Relations
Lawrence Henry	NDSU research specialist and Langdon City Commissioner	Board Member/City Commission Spot	12/31/2024	Agriculture
Dave Monson	farmer and state legislator	Board Member	12/31/2024	Agriculture
Nick Moser	MDU Resources employee and county commission	Board Member/County commission spot	12/31/2024	Business Development
Mark Busse*	owner of local car dealership	Exec At-Large	12/31/2024	Business Development
Elsie Magnus	retired teacher	Board Member	12/31/2024	Community Relations
Clint Eskilsen	retired Army	Board Member	12/31/2024	Community Relations
Steven Zimmer	farmer/city planning	Board Member	12/31/2025	Agriculture
Tara McFadden	Choice Financial Bank	Board Member	12/31/2025	Agriculture
Bill Mack	Manager of local grocery store, recently retired	Board Member	12/31/2025	Business Development
Daren Christianson*	Superintendent of local school	Board Chair	12/31/2025	Community Relations
Jerry Nowatzki	mayor	Board Member	12/31/2025	Community Relations