



November 9, 2023

Chairman Lovas and members of the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education,

NDGGA appreciates the opportunity to provide additional comments on SBARE's priorities for the upcoming biennium. Specifically, on endangered species and on the important of the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies (CAPTS).

Producers continue to be faced with federal regulations that make it decidedly harder to farm. Recently, most agriculture organizations have been involved with pushing back against rules coming from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in regard to pesticide labeling and having to figure out where and how some of these vital tools can be used. For instance, identifying where Endangered Species are in the state and their habitats are actually occurring is a particularly frustrating issue, and the only data that EPA considers when it comes from the US Fish and Wildlife service. However, this data comes with many concerns, as we believe that the present maps may not be accurate and may be overreaching. We believe that the Ag Experiment Stations could have a role in helping identify where endangered species are occurring and such a research program would be extremely useful to producers.

Lastly, we believe that support for CAPTS is critical for North Dakota. As a landlocked state, we depend on both domestic and international trade in order to achieve economic success. Such specialized markets demand specialized research that CAPTS is able to provide.

Thank you for the chance to provide additional comments. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Ed Kessel', is positioned below the text 'Best,'.

Ed Kessel, President
North Dakota Grain Growers Association