December 6, 2017

SBARE Stakeholder Written Testimony
NDSU-Ext & ND Ag Experiment Stations
NDSU Dept. 7520
PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

SBARE and To Whom It May Concern:

North Dakota State University Extension Service, locally and State-wide, is a vital partner in the conservation and agriculture communities in North Dakota. NDSU Extension Service and Experiment Stations are a cornerstone in the foundation of North Dakota’s progressive agriculture industry, successful conservation of our natural resources and community vitality.

The following is a list of benefits and impactful partnerships the Bowman-Slope SCD appreciates from the local NDSU Extension Service in Bowman and Slope Counties:

- Co-hosting educational events for farmers/ranchers/youth/gardeners/wildlife managers
  - NDSU provides speakers, educational material, research data

- Research data and on-the-ground trials near our area, providing relevant information for our landscape, weather and communities. This data reduces the risk for our farmers/ranchers to try different management strategies or systems on their own operation first. NDSU is very efficient and effective at providing this research information to producers and partnering agencies.

- Professional assistance and natural resource expertise on a natural resources and watershed function with our watershed assessment project. The guidance and leadership NDSU staff provided in our Watershed Assessment Project proved to be a very effective way for our SCD to identify the health of watersheds and the need for Best Management Practices to improve water quality. This assessment led to a funded 319 Project in our SCD, which provides cost-share assistance to farmers/ranchers/land owners to implement conservation practices. NDSU also provides In-Kind Match through employee assistance time to SCD’s to match our local 319 Watershed Projects, which is a great financial benefit to stretch federal dollars on a local project.

- Youth Education: NDSU Extension Service is a leader in providing effective youth education in our counties. This education opens the door for our youth to have hands-on education about agriculture, natural resources, leadership and personal development skills. NDSU staff annually assist our SCD with Conservation Daze, a 6th grade natural resources conservation event. We sponsor students annually to attend the popular and highly recommend NDSU Range Camp. NDSU Extension Service is exposing and guiding youth to potential career opportunities in agriculture and natural resources management.

- Leadership Training: NDSU continually provides education and tools to local organizations and citizens on effective leadership skills, techniques and general professional development skills. These tools
benefit us in local government and community organizations, which allow us to effectively achieve our mission to assist the public.

- The NDAWN weather station provides our local citizens with real time weather and atmosphere data that assists them in agriculture management decisions and applications.

NDSU's assistance and administration of the State Soil Conservation Committee and State Soil Conservation District Assistance Program has benefited our SCD by providing assistance with SCD administrative and state century code/legal questions and financial assistance for SCD's to employ staff to efficiently deliver conservation programs to our constituents.

Our local county Extension Agents are a vital part of our community, they benefit our rural communities with their knowledge; hours spent in the communities hosting events; answering questions for local citizens; providing local input and representation on weather, natural resources and crop conditions to state and national delegation and decision makers. Our local agents are always willing to take-on the next project to improve our rural communities and to bring opportunities to us.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the future of NDSU Extension in North Dakota and Bowman and Slope Counties. We have great respect for the difficult budget decisions you are facing and we appreciate fiscal responsibility. That being said, we strongly encourage you to allow NDSU Extension Service the budget they need to continue to deliver effective and important services to our rural communities. NDSU is a responsible investment and return for North Dakota!

Sincerely,

Jeff Brown
Chairman, Bowman-Slope SCD

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Bowman-Slope SCD Board Members

Jeff Brown  Vern Brown  Brett Hendrickson  Jerry Jeffers  Tony Pierce
Scranton, ND  Marmarth, ND  Rhame, ND  Rhame, ND  Scranton, ND