December 8, 2017

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

To SBARE:

Agriculture is a primary industry in North Dakota. In recent years the state’s farmers have had to adapt to a vast number of changes. At the center of this adaptation, the NDSU Extension Service has provided a broad spectrum of information and education services.

The NDSU Extension Service’s mission statement states “Extension provides science-based education that improves the economic, health, and community conditions North Dakota.” This is an ambitious goal which addresses a wide scope of activities over the whole state. The extension service has been remarkably successful in carrying out this mission. With all the challenges facing agriculture and rural North Dakota, it is urgent to continue funding the extension service at or above current levels. The budget cuts made in the last session of the legislature have had a negative impact on both research and the staffing needed to carry out this important work. It is unwise to make further cuts into programs so important to the wellbeing of the people of North Dakota. The extension service has programs that help farmers, gardeners, consumers and ag related businesses. It helps communicate researchers’ work with ordinary citizens. This is essential for putting into practice the results of the investments made in research.

The Cavalier County Soil Conservation District regularly works closely with our county extension agent, NRCS and staff from the Langdon NDSU Research Center. One example is our joint annual soil health workshop. The Extension Service’s programs have been designed to help farmers improve profitability while better caring for their soil. This type of program is not provided by the private sector. Having a well-functioning extension service is crucial to this innovative education.

Sincerely,

[Terry Jacobson's Signature]

Terry Jacobson on behalf of the Cavalier County Soil District

Cavalier County District Board

Jon Iverson   Terry Jacobson   Karry Krahn   Ed Pearson   Kevin Dawley