To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter of support from the James River Soil Conservation District Board of Dickey County in regards to the NDSU Extension program. In Dickey County, we greatly value the extensive knowledge and assistance our local Extension office provides throughout the county on so many levels.

The extension’s promotion of 4-H and youth development has been outstanding. They are constantly striving to increase participation in 4-H, even setting up informational booths at the local school open houses and other high-traffic events. They also have numerous field days for the youth on topics ranging on everything from food safety to agriculture. The extension personnel has always been ready and willing to help with our local EcoEd day where we specifically target 7th grade students with environmental education.

They are also extremely active in keeping our local producers well-educated. They studiously provide the pesticide certification on an annual basis. They are well-known and respected among livestock producers. Each year, the extension provides timely workshops and meetings to assist producers in bettering their operations.

Our office utilizes local extension personnel when it comes to plant/weed identification and disease issues. They either can diagnosis the problem or refer us to a specialist who can quickly help us out. We also greatly appreciate the various research facilities throughout the state. We utilize those personnel for speakers at workshops/tour days and we rely on the outstanding publications they produce that highlights their results.

If the extension office was removed from not just our county, but really any county in North Dakota, there would be a very large void created. In this day and age, as a Soil Conservation District, we see the importance of continuous education among young and old to counteract the false advertising of big-dollar companies. This is something we cannot do on our own. The Extension office is vital in this effort. They are well-educated professionals that we truly need in rural North Dakota.

Sincerely,

The James River Soil Conservation District Board

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