North Dakota Corn Utilization Council
North Dakota Corn Growers Association
Testimony before the State Board of Research and Education
November 30, 2017

Thank you, Chairman Peltier and members of the State Board of Research and Education, for allowing the corn producers of North Dakota to state their position on the research and educational needs of the future, specifically used in planning for the 2019 Legislative Session.

For the record, my name is Dale Ihry, Executive Director of the ND Corn Utilization Council (NDCUC) and ND Corn Growers Association (NDCGA). I am present today to outline research and educational needs for the future of corn production and uses.

ND Corn represents one of the highest value crops in North Dakota, specifically when looking at all uses of the corn crop. ND corn production is used in ethanol production, livestock feed, and human food consumption. In 2017, corn farmers in North Dakota harvested 3.2 million acres for corn grain; with an average yield of 134 bu./acre (NASS); total production at 429 million bushels; and estimated to receive an average price of $2.85/bu. The 2017 corn crop is estimated to have a market value of approximately $1.2 billion; before adding in the value of by-products such as ethanol and dried distillers grain. A recent report completed by NDSU Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics, using 2015 data, indicated that the total economic impact of the corn based ethanol industry in the state was $623.4 million in value. (See corn fact sheet attached).

The goal of our organizations is to make growing corn in North Dakota a healthy and profitable business. Research and education funds are needed to support this $1.2 billion industry. The following areas represent ND Corn’s priorities for SBARE’s consideration:
• Funding of the NDSU Extension and Research mission areas. Which includes the education of growing and marketing corn; research of corn trial test plots, to ensure ND producers have vibrant and potentially cost-effective corn seed options; and funding of continued work on precision agriculture.

• Funding for valued added (corn) projects:
  o Use of corn as ethanol including by-products of corn and ethanol such as distiller grains as: feed for livestock; wood composite; or fertilizer, for example.
  o Use of corn and ethanol for other by-products such as plastics and chemicals.

• Funding of soil health initiatives, including the effects of soil salinity in the soils and effectiveness of tiling to enhance the productivity of our soils.

• Funding to show the value of increased livestock population in North Dakota; including education of establishing livestock enterprises; legal partnerships; manure values; and related ag businesses.

• Funding for the Center of Agriculture Policy and Trade Center.

In conclusion, the NDCUC and the NDCGA have provided areas for priority consideration by SBARE. We have confidence in the NDSU Agriculture Research and Extension efforts of the past and continue support of their functions into the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dale Ihry
Executive Director
ND Corn Utilization Council
ND Corn Growers Association