



December 13, 2017

Mr. Keith Peltier
Chair, SBARE
NDSU Dept 7520
PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

Dear Chairman Peltier,

North Dakota Farm Bureau has a long history of supporting NDSU, Extension and university research which is vital to our farm and ranch members. As the state's most effective general agricultural organization, we represent members engaged in every facet of production agriculture across our diverse state. Our organization will continue to support NDSU, Extension and the SBARE efforts, even in times of tight state budgets.

As the organization's chief lobbyist, I am very aware of the challenges SBARE, the universities in general and every other stakeholder dealt with in the last legislative session. During recent sessions and budget cycles a number of expenditures were authorized which may not have been 'affordable' in a more depressed economy. Many of these expenditures were one-time allocations for worthy, much needed, improvements and infrastructure expansions. I know NDSU benefited from these expenditures and they are a worthwhile investment for the future of our state and the university. Our organization supported these expenditures directly in committee discussions and/or behind the scenes with key legislative leaders. We also understand the dilemma the state legislature is facing when state revenues decline while stakeholders have become accustomed to higher spending levels.

NDFB will continue to support your efforts to fund programs our members depend upon. Knowing every university, stakeholder, or other entity dependent on public funding will have to be more frugal during these parsimonious times, we are also eager to help you economize or prioritize your current funding. Our organization will be a persistent partner to maximize opportunities for NDSU/SBARE.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter F. Hanebutt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Peter F. Hanebutt
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