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**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony before the
State Board of Ag Research and Education
November 30, 2017**

Chairman Peltier, members of the State Board of Ag Research and Education (SBARE), for the record my name is Dan Wogsland, Executive Director for the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). Through NDGGA's contracts with the North Dakota Wheat Commission and the North Dakota Barley Council the North Dakota Grain Growers Association engages in domestic policy issues on behalf of North Dakota's wheat and barley farmers. NDGGA appears before you today to offer its input regarding Ag Research and Extension issues that are critical to today's North Dakota agriculture.

All of you are very aware of the essential role Ag research and extension plays in North Dakota agriculture. North Dakota agriculture is the Best in the world; to keep our farmers and ranchers at the top of the heap takes all of the "tools in the tool chest" that can be provided; North Dakota Ag research and Extension are at the forefront in providing those tools.

That said, we must recognize the changing face of agriculture and we must adapt accordingly. A long time ago President Kennedy stated "time and the world do not stand still; change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future." Today's Ag research as well as Extension must be forward thinking in its approach to meet the needs of a rapidly changing agricultural landscape.

NDGGA would suggest that SBARE consider three tenets as you move forward in your deliberations:

- Do not be bashful in asking the Legislature for what is needed. Agriculture is North Dakota number one industry; it was here yesterday, it is here today and it will be here tomorrow. Agriculture sustains North Dakota; we cannot

NDGGA provides a voice for wheat and barley producers on domestic policy issues – such as crop insurance, disaster assistance and the Farm Bill – while serving as a source for agronomic and crop marketing education for its members.

and ought not shortchange the state's support for its primary economic pillar.

- Pay your people. It's a simple concept, you either pay people or you lose them. Without compensation you cannot retain and you cannot attract the people North Dakota Ag research and extension needs and North Dakota agriculture deserves.
- Build your infrastructure. The NDSU Greenhouse is a classic example of what can be done; Harris Hall is a classic example what shouldn't. You cannot maintain and obtain the best and brightest if you don't provide them the means to succeed.

Specifically NDGGA would respectfully request that SBARE consider prioritizing some of the following programs:

- Support precision agriculture. Precision agriculture is a vital component of agriculture now and in the future. Investing in precision agriculture programming is not only wise from a practical standpoint it can be a vital promotional tool for SBARE and Ag research and extension.
- Maintain the staffing excellence in Ag research programs. Programs such as plant pathology play a critical role in keeping North Dakota agriculture number one in the world. Pay people and give them the tools they need; North Dakota agriculture in in a world-wide competition. So is North Dakota Ag research and extension.
- Provide the technical support needed for Ag research. Technical support, as you are all aware, is key to the success for Ag research. It is essential that technical support is a part of any SBARE priority for Ag research.
- Increase support for the Center for Ag Policy and Trade Studies (CAPTS). North Dakota is a leader in the nation's agriculture; policy decisions made in the next Farm Bill and beyond directly impact North Dakota agriculture's success. We as farm organizations cannot engage fully in Ag policy discussions if we do not reasonably know and understand the impacts policy decisions have on North Dakota farmers and ranchers. CAPTS can provide that analysis; but to do that CAPTS must be supported at a level that can enhance the program's ability to meet the needs.
- Replace Harris Hall. You cannot retain and you cannot attract the people we need in the job market arena with the 1950's. North Dakota agriculture deserves better.
- Provide Extension and its personnel the means to provide service to today's agriculture. Supporting programs such as Dr, Wick's soil health program, the Pesticide Application Technology Mobile Lab as well as precision agriculture education are just a few examples of how Extension can enhance production agriculture as well as enhance its perception to stakeholders.

- Support the Rural Leadership North Dakota program. Everyone in this room is a leader; providing skills enhancement for North Dakota leaders is positive for both rural and urban North Dakota. Rural Leadership North Dakota is an NDSU success story and its program must be maintained.

The list of wants and needs for Ag research and Extension goes on and on. The North Dakota Grain Growers Association recognizes as with everything there are unlimited wants with limited means. Today NDGGA appreciates the opportunity to come before the State Board of Agricultural Research and Extension to provide some of our Association's thoughts for your consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to come before you today; NDGGA stands ready to support SBARE in your deliberations.