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November 1, 2017

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To Whom It May Concern:

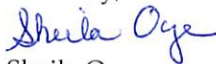
This letter is to support our local NDSU Extension Office and to request continued state funding for the services provided to our local community. The agents are very knowledgeable and provide a valuable service. Our county has a strong agricultural community which accesses the knowledge and skills of the Extension Agents and a strong 4-H program for the youth in our community.

Our office specifically accesses the services of NDSU Extension to assist local families who are struggling with limited skills for household maintenance, cooking and parenting. The Family Consumer Science Extension Agent and the Nutrition Education Agent assist with education to clients of Steele County Social Services and hands on training for individuals and families who need assistance in how to cook nutritious meals from foods obtained through the food pantry or SNAP benefits. They also assist with parenting education to assist families provide appropriate supervision and discipline along with a structured daily routine to support child development. Their resources and information improve the functioning and the quality of life for the families they serve.

We live and work in a rural community with limited available local resources. These valuable local resources that NDSU Extension provide are important to the community and a change to the structure or funding will have an impact on the community.

Please provide the support needed to ensure that the NDSU Extension offices in the smaller counties continue to operate. Please consider ideas to raise financial resources to operate rather than cutting services. Partnering with agricultural business to provide research needed to advance the industry and production of a marketable product to support the programming offered by NDSU Extension would be preferable rather than cutting education and support to local rural communities.

Sincerely,



Sheila Oye

Director