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To: ndsu.sbare@ndsu.edu
Subject: Written testimony supporting NDSU extension
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ND extension still has a vital stake in what the future of North Dakota will build from. ND extension covers many areas of interest for me as a past 4-Her who served as a local leader for over 25 years and today I watch my grandchildren learn and build working skills and public relations skills from their present 4-H programs.

Let us not forget the other important activities these NDSU extension office offer to our communities. As I serve on the National Association of Counties Board of Directors I often visit with many other state about programs which continue to build success and involve generation of people who have been leader in communities in rural America that add strength to communities. Many times, I would hear during our discussion our local extension service is a key builder for public relations and news information to the public. From Family and Consumer Science, Family Nutrition Programs, class room educational programs with interaction skills and the many other programs I have not heard much about in any of the open hearings to date. These programs are all vital tools to rural small America communities and help keep the doors of communication open.

Governor Burgum is promoting his Main Street Initiative and how it will provide information on the community planning principles behind the three pillars of Burgum's Main Street Initiative: a skilled workforce; smart, efficient infrastructure; and healthy, vibrant communities.

Other states have changed the way they look and interact with extension services and we in North Dakota need to do the same as I believe the Burgum message is to take an approach rebuild a more vibrant ND extension service and research center. Necessary cuts from a budget stand point impact many of us in local government and adjustments are made to fulfill the need. Combining of services, educational opportunities, research and how do we communicate this back to our North Dakota citizens at a much lower cost.

"We have an opportunity to address our chronic workforce shortages and attract the capital and talent to our state to succeed in a highly competitive 21st century economy," Burgum said. "The principles of the Main Street Initiative include a data-driven approach to community planning that will help our communities fulfill their potential and help North Dakota grow and diversify our economy for future generations." Is this not what North Dakota extension service can help our Governor be successful at?

Regionalization of staff and programs maybe the answer to many of the cost effectiveness issue for budget reason as I see it. One package does not always fit ever area but would give the opportunity to move forward and the challenge of change is always an issue.

SBARE committee thank you for your service to North Dakota.

Thank you,

Dunn County Commissioner,

Daryl Dukart