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**To:** [ndsu.sbare@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.sbare@ndsu.edu)  
**Subject:** Extention budget cuts  
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I am writing to express how I value the work of the extension agents in our state and particularly here in Pembina County. I have been a resident of Cavalier since the spring of 2011. During that time, the partnership that the extension program has with community improvement has been wide-spread. Personally, I was on a committee to further parent education. This committee put on multiple events for parents including Nurtured Heart Training and drug education. No one on the committee could have done this alone. We each brought strengths and resources to the table. It was the extension piece that located the expert speakers and coordinated the funding. The childcare was even provided for some of the events through partnering students trained through extension. I have participated in 2 other organizations that received expert guidance through mission and vision development through our extension program. I can't begin to quantify the positive changes made in both organizations as a result of that refinement process. The outdoor classroom/place based education development at the Cavalier School where I teach has been enhanced through community involvement. Kari Helgoe has broadened the scope of this process as well.

Personally, I have benefited from involvement with several other aspects of informal education. I have stretched greatly with my involvement with our county fair. How would that event even happen without extension work? Beyond my benefit, people of all ages enjoy and thrive with the inter-generational interaction of all aspects of that event. The displays of exhibits show evidence of skill development for sure. Even more dramatically for me, I have made incredible progress on health improvement through the research-based diabetes prevention class offered here in Cavalier in partnership with the extension. Throughout the years, I've made many attempts at weight loss, but this is the first research-based program that I've been in. I'm seeing real results beyond what I've ever had before. My husband has also made major improvements through his participation in this class as well. We've each lost 30 pounds already and we're pressing on for more.

Our school aged students have had training here at school through extension as well as many who are involved with 4-H. There is even a leadership development committee mentoring teens into higher levels of leadership. Even teens who clearly see themselves as leaders have sharpened their skills greatly. Others have stepped up beyond what they even saw in themselves. That has ramifications for our whole state. Who knows, one of these young leaders could someday be leading our state as governor.

I realize funding has to be cut, but losing our extension programming throughout the state will have long term side affects for the quality of life this state enjoys as we pursue life-long learning.

Respectfully,  
Sue Daggett