January 24, 2018

Dear SBARE Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Walsh County Commissioners, to show support for the Walsh County agents who promote agricultural education, family & community wellness, 4-H youth programs and so much more. Brad Brummond and Jamie Medbery diligently address the changing needs of Walsh County citizens with unbiased, science-based programming. The board of Walsh County Commissioners has become very concerned with the cuts to our NDSU Extension Service and what those cuts mean for our county's citizens.

Brad and Jamie have convened a county-wide advisory board and will receive input from them in order to meet the needs of the communities they serve. These efforts are designed to improve the lives of North Dakota agriculture producers and their families. Rural communities rely on the work and programs led by NDSU Extension agents, especially in Walsh County.

Walsh County agriculture is facing one of its greatest challenges with the introduction of resistant weed species. We look to our Extension service to lead the effort of excluding these weeds from Walsh County and providing education on how to manage the weeds we currently have.

The Walsh County community has seen a rise in obesity and diabetes in its citizens. Programs brought to our residents by our local Extension agent is critical in combating those issues. Our local schools, senior centers and businesses rely on this important Extension programming.

Walsh County has a proud tradition of a strong 4-H program. Many of the leaders in our community have come from the Walsh County 4-H Program. We see the 4-H program as a critical piece of the success of Walsh County now and in the future. We are insistent with the continued state support of 4-H and the Walsh County Extension office who lead our programs.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Burianek
Walsh County Chairman