SBARE Meeting @ the USDA Northern Great Plains Research Lab, Mandan, ND

January 12, 2018

- Sarah Getzlaff, CEO, Security First Bank of ND. Burleigh County resident, formerly Oliver County.

- Consider keeping ONE Extension Agent in EACH County in North Dakota.
  - It’s the right thing to do.
  - It exemplifies the purpose of the NDSU Extension Service.
  - Everyone deserves the same opportunities and access to the same resources.

- The loss of an Extension Agent in Oliver County would be devastating.
  - Our Extension Agent is our resource. He supports – and is invested in – our community.
  - The loss of an Extension Agent means Center/Oliver County will lose:
    - a significant number of 4-H participants.
    - 4-H Achievement Days – the crux of the Oliver County Fair.
    - business traffic and the dollars that go with it.

- Chairman Peltier asked, “How can we efficiently allocate those resources . . . ?”
  - Oliver County is efficient.
    - Cass, Grand Forks & Ward Counties are 3 of the 6 least efficient counties when you compare the number of farms/ranches per Extension Agent.
      - Oliver County is only the 19th least efficient County.
    - Oliver County is the 15th MOST efficient County when you look at 4-H participants per Extension Agent.
    - >30% of Oliver County students participate in 4-H.
    - ~70% of Oliver County residents utilize their Extension Agent.

- Whether you are from Robinson, Judson, Baldwin or Center – you deserve LOCAL access to an Extension Agent.
  - Why discriminate based on whether the County you live in has <2,000 people?
    - The NDSU Extension Service extends education to ALL ages and ALL walks of life.
    - The purpose is to create learning partnerships that help adults and youth enhance their lives and communities. ALL communities.
    - Should NDSU Extension Services access be subject to a $23,000 surcharge?
    - Why would we even think about cutting services from the people who utilize them the most?

- SOLUTIONS:
  - 1. Charge ALL Counties the same percentage – say 45%, or whatever the percentage is that Equitably shares the cut. Why charge some 40% and unfairly charge others 60%???
  - 2. Keep the current 50/50 cost sharing for ONE EXTENSION AGENT in each County, and then charge a higher percentage for each additional Extension Agent to build in efficient spending.

- THANK YOU!!! I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to speak, the time and attention you each are devoting to this decision, and everything Extension does for our great state.