



**NORTHARVEST BEAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

*Supplying the World With Dry Beans®*

January 11, 2018

State Board of Agricultural Research and Education Board of Directors  
NDSU Dept. 7520, PO Box 6050  
Fargo, North Dakota 58108-6050

Re: Receiving input from stakeholders for the 2019 Legislative Session

Dear Members of the Board:

The following is for consideration in support of our dry bean priority for the 2019 legislative session:

I. Pulse Crop Pathology Program at NDSU

Assessment funding of dry bean research commenced in the late 1970's. Dry bean growers lead the legislative effort to establish a position for a dry bean plant pathologist and technician. At that time pinto-navy-pink were the 3 classes recognized as having a production base in ND. A dry bean breeder and technician followed that legislative effort. In 2007 the NDSU dry bean plant pathologist and technician was redirected to include pulse crop pathology (dry bean, field pea, chickpea and lentil).

ND has been leading the nation in production of dry beans for many years. 2017 acreage planted registered at 675,000. Also ten different classes of dry beans are now part of the production landscape for ND. And to some degree each has a special need in regards to attention in regards to diseases.

While graduate students are a wonderful resource for shorter-term projects, or portions of larger projects, however, long-term sustained projects that will continue to benefit the dry bean grower in the future require a maintained effort to the Pulse Crop Pathology program that only can be provided by a permanent FTE technician.

In summary, this inclusion of other crops in addition to the advances of ND currently planting 10 different classes of dry bean did create a special need for an additional state funded FTE technician for the pulse crop pathology program at NDSU.

We look forward to learning of your recommendations and to support NDSU during the 2019 legislative session.

Northharvest Bean Growers Association  
North Dakota Dry Bean Council  
MN Dry Bean Research and Promotion Council

