



**Testimony of Randy Melvin
On behalf of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association
February 5, 2021**

In Support of HB 1475

Chairman Johnson and members of the House Agriculture Committee,

My name is Randy Melvin and I am a member and the past- president of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association and I farm near Buffalo, ND.

The North Dakota Corn Growers Association supports House Bill 1475 which would expand the State of North Dakota's support for value added agriculture. We welcome the proposal to dedicate a portion of the Legacy Fund earnings to grants and loans delivered through the Agricultural Products Utilization Commission to help with workforce, equipment, and infrastructure of value-added business ventures; and to bolster the funds for these types of enterprises.

Part of our association's mission is to help develop and expand markets for North Dakota corn. We need additional, and diverse value-added projects in the state that can help process North Dakota's commodities and increase the demand. With generous lending terms and working capital for new projects and expansions of existing ones, the tools in this bill will provide more economic incentive to help spur varied opportunities and a boon for our farmers and ranchers and for our state.

We think that this legislation will have a hand in developing a more robust market for our crops and more opportunity for our states growers which helps our communities and North Dakota. We ask you to support HB 1475 as well.

Thank you for your time. I welcome any questions.