



**Testimony of Jennifer Greuel**  
**Economic Development Association of North Dakota**  
**In Support of HB 1009**  
**March 8, 2021**

Chair Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

The Economic Development Association of North Dakota represents more than 80 large and small and rural and urban economic development organizations on the front line of growing businesses and communities in North Dakota. The primary purpose of the organization is to promote the creation of new wealth throughout North Dakota to develop more vibrant communities and improve quality of life. It is for these reasons our organization and its members want to express support for HB 1009, especially regarding the Agricultural Products Utilization Commission (APUC), bioscience innovation grant fund and the North Dakota Trade Office.

Energy and agriculture have long been the two historical and leading pillars of North Dakota's economy. EDND supports investments that will enhance these important economic sectors and ensure their success in the future, while making strides to diversify the economy. If North Dakota wants to remain a leader in agriculture, we will have to encourage innovation.

EDND members are extremely supportive of APUC and encourage it to be funded at adequate levels. The more value that is added to crops and livestock raised within the state, the more agriculture and the state can benefit. EDND supports the inclusion of \$4.46 million for the program as it came out of the House.

The bioscience and biotechnology fields have the potential to broaden the tax base and pose North Dakota as a leader in this important, newly developing sector. EDND supports the House's inclusion of \$5.5 million for a bioscience innovation grant fund. As we have seen with UAS, making investments into new technologies and ideas can make a huge impact on the direction of our state.

Finally, one of EDND's top legislative priorities is the diversification of North Dakota's economy. The North Dakota Trade Office supports exports in agriculture, but also other industries that diversify the economy, such as technology, manufacturing and energy. Ultimately, whether the Trade Office is located in the Department of Commerce or the Department of Agriculture, we ask it to be funded at the appropriate level and be allowed to continue its important mission.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for HB 1009 and for your continued commitment to keeping North Dakota globally competitive and diversifying the state's economy.