



Testimony of Brenda Elmer

Executive Director, North Dakota Corn Growers Association

Senate Appropriations Committee

November 9, 2021

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

The North Dakota Corn Growers Association (NDCGA) asks for your support of Senate Bill 2345, specifically as it relates to appropriating \$21 million of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for a fuel production facility loan forgiveness program (Section 1, subsection 34). This funding will enable the repayment of loans issued to the state's ethanol plants in 2020 through the Ethanol Recovery Program.

The Ethanol Recovery Program was created to keep North Dakota's ethanol plants going through the Covid-19 pandemic, which idled many ethanol plants across the United States. Coming off the pandemic and into a year of extreme drought across the state significantly impacted the production of corn as well as other feedstocks used in ethanol production.

North Dakota's corn yield is projected to be down considerably this year from 139 bushels per acre in 2020 to 108 bushels per acre for the 2021 crop year. In 2021, the industry was starting to rebound from the pandemic, however the drought and resulting 2021 crop loss has inhibited a full recovery. This has caused ethanol plants to look to sources outside of North Dakota's corn production.

North Dakota ethanol industry contributes \$624 million annually to the state's economy. The plants utilize 160-180 million bushels of corn annually to produce more than 500 million gallons of ethanol. This funding is essential to the continuation of the states ethanol industry and corn producers.

On behalf of the more than 13,000 corn growers across the state, we ask for your favorable consideration of ARPA funds to support North Dakota's ethanol plants.

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