

TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF NCI BY DAVID CLOUGH

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

January 14, 2009

Chairman Holmberg and members of the appropriations committee, it is an honor to testify before you for the Northern Crops Institute and the Milling Specialist position.

I'm David Clough, a farmer from Senator Jerry Klein's home town of Fessenden. I represent District 3 on the NDWC (North Dakota Wheat Commission) and represent the NDWC on the NCI Council.

The NCI was formed with major support from the NDWC and still works a lot with the NCI on foreign wheat trade teams along with short courses, testing and demonstrating our good quality wheat.

The NCI is in the process of reconfiguration of the durum mill into a swing mill to mill durum, HRS and winter wheat, with major support from the ND and SD Wheat Commissions. In the last few years, we have had to send wheat samples to Kansas to get milled for different reports.

The Executive Recommendation is asking for a Milling Specialist position which NDSU or NCI doesn't have now. With our wheat customers getting more sophisticated on milling and baking, we need a milling specialist to help with their needs and questions.

The miller would help in demonstrating and educating our buyers and processors on how to get the best performance and value from our wheat. Also, in a year when Mother Nature doesn't cooperate with poor quality such as lower protein, falling numbers, vitreous kernels and other issues, the miller could help with how to mill these wheats. The miller would also help with programs such as the OVA (Overseas Variety Analysis) and domestic Wheat Quality Council to promote our wheat.

In November I was in four countries and seven cities in SE Asia on a US Wheat Associates Board Team along with two other farmers from across the US. The three of us raise four different classes of wheat. I answered about 75% of the questions from the millers and bakers that we met with because they wanted to know about HRS wheat. HRS wheat is known as the best wheat in the world and is needed for blending and for use as premium flour. We met with a baker in Solo, Indonesia that uses 100% spring wheat flour and is building a new bakery to expand from 1000 M² to 5000 M². There is worldwide demand for our premium wheat.

Buying wheat is a little like buying farm machinery. You buy for price, quality and service. A Milling Specialist at NCI would be one more part of the service we give to our wheat customers. Thank you for your attention. Are there any questions?