



January 5, 2026

State Board of Agricultural Research and Education (SBARE)  
North Dakota State University

Dear Members of SBARE,

On behalf of American Crystal Sugar Company, I write to express support for the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics' proposal to provide sustained and expanded program support for the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies (CAPTS) Program in Policy, Markets, and Impact Analysis.

Sugarbeets are among the most import-sensitive crops produced in North Dakota. Our cooperative shareholders compete directly with foreign sugar producers who benefit from heavy government subsidies, non-market production incentives, and trade practices that distort prices and undercut efficient U.S. production. Foreign sugar dumping—often enabled by foreign government support and preferential policies—continues to pressure domestic prices and market stability. As a result, federal trade policy and enforcement actions have immediate and material consequences for grower returns, cooperative operations, and rural employment throughout the Red River Valley. Producers and policymakers need credible, timely, and transparent analysis to understand these impacts and to support sound trade enforcement decisions.

CAPTS offers a distinct ability to analyze and measure the effects of trade policy, import competition, and related domestic policies on market outcomes specific to North Dakota. The proposed expansion in capacity would enhance CAPTS's ability to respond quickly to emerging trade-related issues and strengthen its modeling capabilities, improving the quality and usefulness of analysis available to producers, cooperatives, agencies, and policymakers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Astrup".

Tom Astrup  
President and Chief Executive Officer



*Received for SBARE via online submission 1/5/2026 - Tom Astrup*