



January 5, 2026

The ND State Board of Agricultural Research and Education (SBARE)
NDSU Department 7520
PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

To the SBARE Committee,

On behalf of the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council, I am writing to express strong support for sustained program support for the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies (CAPTS) program focused on agricultural policy, markets, trade and logistics, and economic impact analysis for North Dakota.

North Dakota corn producers and the broader corn value chain operate in an increasingly volatile environment shaped by global demand shifts, transportation constraints, policy changes, and evolving biofuels and energy markets. Timely, North Dakota specific analysis that translates these dynamics into practical guidance is essential for informed decision making by producers, agribusinesses, and state leaders.

We see particular value in CAPTS strengthening decision ready capacity in three ways:

1. Rapid, North Dakota specific policy analysis. Producers and industry partners need clear, credible evaluation of policy proposals, program changes, conservation and working lands initiatives, and related budget and tax considerations, especially when timelines are short and decisions have real impacts on profitability and competitiveness.
2. Markets, trade, and logistics intelligence. Corn markets are highly sensitive to export conditions, regional basis dynamics, and transportation performance. Improved capacity to monitor and interpret export flows, market access, and logistics constraints, and to communicate implications through briefs, outlook notes, and producer-facing decision sheets, would directly strengthen marketing and risk management decisions for our stakeholders.
3. Economic impact and investment analysis for the corn value chain. North Dakota continues to evaluate and pursue investments tied to biofuels, processing, infrastructure,

and related energy agriculture linkages. Consistent, transparent impact and contribution analysis, paired with accessible tools and clear summaries, helps decision makers understand returns, tradeoffs, and broader community benefits.

We also support the program's emphasis on statewide delivery through NDSU Extension and the Research Extension Centers, including recurring briefings and workshops and usable dashboards and tools. This applied outreach helps ensure research products translate into action for producers and stakeholders across North Dakota.

For these reasons, we encourage SBARE to support the CAPTS program request. Strengthening this capacity will improve the speed, consistency, and usefulness of North Dakota specific guidance on policy, markets, trade and logistics, and economic impacts, supporting better decisions across agriculture and rural communities.

Sincerely,



Molly Fern
Finance and Research Director

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