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

Dear Members of SBARE,

On behalf of the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association (RRVSGA), I write to express our 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 growers 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 in 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 provides essential analytical capacity to quantify how trade policy, import pressure, and related domestic policies translate into North Dakota-specific market outcomes. 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.

Investment in this program will strengthen North Dakota's ability to evaluate trade impacts, support fair and effective enforcement, and protect the competitiveness of domestic agricultural production.

Thank you for your consideration.

Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association

Sincerely,

Harrison Weber  
Executive Director  
Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association