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To: ndsusbare@ndsus.edu
Subject: Stakeholder input re: greenhouse, Waldron Hall
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 2:05:20 PM

Hello SBARE board members.

I am a stakeholder in the NDSU horticulture programs and a beneficiary of the knowledge gained through those programs. I am a certified Master Gardener through NDSU Extension, and I work at a garden center (coincidentally owned by an NDSU horticulture graduate and managed by another NDSU horticulture graduate). Through both of these endeavors, I am tapped numerous times each week to answer questions from backyard gardeners, homeowners and houseplant parents. Through the education I have gotten through the MG program, I am usually able to answer these questions, sharing information that is research-based and dependable.

Even before the pandemic started in 2020, backyard gardening and houseplants were gaining popularity among the Millennial generation. As I'm sure you know, the pandemic only increased that popularity and spread it among all generations. We have seen garden seeds sell out. We have seen people become houseplant collectors, seeking new and unusual plants. We have seen new, renewed and increased interest in DIY landscaping. We have seen an increased need for horticulture knowledge. NDSU is North Dakota's best source for that knowledge to meet that need.

I understand the Lord and Burnham Greenhouse on the NDSU campus is likely to be demolished. This greenhouse is the home of many research projects that increase horticulture knowledge germane to North Dakota. Without it, we likely would not have the Prairie Expedition American elm tree, which is highly resistant to Dutch elm disease. This is only one example of trees that have been developed through the tree breeding and selection program at NDSU. Trees, as you know, are a rare and valuable asset to North Dakota.

The greenhouse is also home to cutting edge greenhouse crop production research and value-added fruit and vegetable crops for North Dakota. Without the greenhouse, we risk losing these valuable research and development programs, as well as a well-trained workforce to work in these areas.

I ask you to please consider supporting funding to add a greenhouse (or more than one) to the replacement for Waldron Hall to allow horticulture research to continue for the benefit of every North Dakotan. I also support legislative funding for operating funds for horticulture through Food Security and Outdoor Space.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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