

January 1, 2024

SBARE NDSU Dept 7250 PO Box 6050 Fargo, ND 58108-6050

Dear SBARE Board of Directors,

The Northern Pulse Growers Association represents producers and industry across the Northern Tier. The region, which includes North Dakota and Montana, accounts for more than 80% of total U.S. pulse production. We appreciate the significant support SBARE has provided our industry through NDSU research and extension. Because our industry is small, the support has been crucial to the continued growth of the pulse industry in the region. Many NDSU research and extension staff, such as Dr. Wunsch, are the experts the U.S. industry relies on for pulse cropping practices.

Our Association fully supports the request by Dr. Michael Wunsch at Carrington Research Extension Center to provide a technical position and funding for his plant pathology & agronomy. Dr. Wunsch's program is significantly understaffed, requiring long hours by all to maintain the current program. This support would allow Dr. Wunsch to conduct additional outreach to producers, leading to producer crop success and profitability.

Dr. Wunsch's program has and will continue to be vital to North Dakota pulse producers remaining competitive in global pulse markets. We thank you for your consideration of this important program!

Best regards,

Shannon Berndt, Executive Director