

December 20, 2023

SBARE
PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108

Dear SBARE board members,

I would like to amend my primary testimony from Sept of 2023 in the light of new information. The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (GDCCD) has worked with NDSU since 1970 at the Oakes Irrigation Research Site (OIRS). GDCCD has been the largest supporter of the site for the entire duration of the OIRS existence. In the last legislative session, the OIRS received a big vote of confidence in the form of appropriation to support the long-term operation of the site. Thank you for your work in making this a reality. The OIRS is now primed to deliver on our service-based mission more than ever before.

In 2024 the GDCCD will cease annual support for the OIRS. However, as a way to celebrate the long-standing partnership, GDCCD is donating five acres of land and the exterior of a new building under construction to be used as a headquarters facility at OIRS. The facility will contain shop, lab, office, and public meeting space. NDSU is charged with raising a partial match of this donation (approximately 66% GDCCD, 33% remaining) to finish the building. I would ask for support from SBARE to include this project as a need on the capital projects list. I would be happy to provide further clarification if needed.

Thank you,



Mike Ostlie
Director, NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center