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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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July 1, 2015

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

I write in support of the Golden Growers Cooperative Value Added Producer Grant application. Their application seeks to leverage funding from the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council, the ND Agricultural Products Utilization Commission, and Golden Growers to expand value-added production in North Dakota.

Agriculture is vital to North Dakota's success, and it is imperative we increase value-added production to build on the jobs created from our state's commodity-focused production. Adding value to commodities—in this case corn—will help keep North Dakota a leader in agricultural production.

Golden Growers Cooperative would use this grant for a feasibility study and market assessment study to evaluate options to add value to corn grain using value-added processing options. Value-added products under consideration include food-grade gluten-free flour, low calorie sweeteners, animal feed products, and biochemical feed stocks. I have no doubt these funds would be put to good use in an area that is of such high importance in our state.

I hope you favorably consider Golden Growers Cooperative's application. Please feel free to contact Tyler Jameson in my office at tyler_jameson@heitkamp.senate.gov if I can provide any additional information about my support of this project.

Sincerely,



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate

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