



25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 500B • Washington, D.C. 20001 • (202) 547-7800 • wheatworld.org

March 22, 2022

Mr. Tom Bernhardt
President
North Dakota Grain Growers Association
1855 72nd Street SE
Linton, ND 58552

Dear President Bernhardt,

Earlier this month, the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) held its annual meeting at Commodity Classic in New Orleans, LA, where I was honored to be elected President of the organization. Our industry is at a critical point as agriculture faces many challenges and opportunities—particularly as we gear up for Farm Bill reauthorization. After I assumed the gavel, the first action NAWG took was to pass a resolution formally inviting the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA) to rejoin the organization.

I believe it is important our organizations continue to have a dialogue and work in earnest to be united and promote federal public policy. The goal of being a united voice is particularly timely as Congress has already begun holding hearings on 2018 Farm Bill implementation, and NAWG is well underway in developing our priorities ahead of Farm Bill reauthorization. Just recently, I had the opportunity to testify in-person before the full House Agriculture Committee on how Farm Bill Title I programs have been working for farmers. Wheat growers in North Dakota and across the United States would benefit from working together on our industries' priorities and having a unified voice going into the 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization process will help achieve those policy goals.

As we discussed in December, NAWG has undertaken significant work since our facilitated meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota, nearly three years ago. In the meeting, NDGGA identified several areas where NAWG could improve overtime to become a more effective organization. Specifically, NAWG has:

- Improved membership communications
- Increased virtual committee meetings and holds regular committee work sessions
- Hosts two monthly state staff meetings
- Developed a process for handling state requests
- Adopted a strategic plan in December 2019
- Created an Industry Partner Program
- Passed balanced budgets in FY20, 21, 22, and 23,
- We budget and maintain a reserve account

We have already discussed many of these issues, but should you or any of your board members have any questions about the improvements NAWG has made since our facilitated meeting, I would be happy to discuss them in further detail.

I am in Washington, DC, this week for the Celebration of AG on National Mall. While NAWG has a small but mighty team in Washington, DC, they have incredible access to Capitol Hill and our federal partners.

In addition to meeting dozens of national leaders in agriculture, I also had a 90-minute meeting with Administrator Ducheneaux and senior Farm Service Agency staff to discuss pressing issues facing our industry. NAWG's effectiveness has been demonstrated with success in working to improve the WHIP+ and Quality Loss Adjustment programs through educating our partners about how wheat is unique. In addition to NAWG securing these flexibilities and improvements with the ad hoc disaster programs, the organization was instrumental in getting CFAP 2 to include all classes of wheat, which brought in nearly \$250 million for North Dakota farmers. Between CFAP and MFP, North Dakota farmers got on average \$58,619.32 through lobbying Congress on these critical disaster aid programs. Last, but certainly not least, NAWG continues to be engaged on supply chain issues, ad hoc disaster aid, protecting and defending the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, climate, sustainability, crop protection tools, crop insurance, trade, and research funding.

I am available and happy to discuss the hard work NAWG has done over the past three years at your convenience. I can be reached at nberg@wheatworld.org or at (509) 948-3726.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Berg', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Berg
President

National Association of Wheat Growers