Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 11, 2026

Colton L. Buckley
Chief
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Chief Buckley:

We write to express our support for the application submitted by North Dakota Agricultural Mitigation (NDAM) to the Wetland Mitigation Banking Program (WMBP). Thank you for your consideration.

Providing agriculture producers with resources to meet conservation compliance requirements is vital, particularly in states like North Dakota located in the Prairie Pothole Region. Wetland mitigation banking serves as a valuable tool for producers when wetland avoidance or on-site mitigation presents challenges.

The NDAM is a coalition of several farm groups, including the North Dakota Corn Growers Association, North Dakota Farm Bureau, North Dakota Farmers Union, North Dakota Grain Growers Association, North Dakota Soybean Growers Association and the U.S. Durum Growers Association. The group provides North Dakota agriculture producers with an efficient and cost-effective program for wetland mitigation. With support from its initial WMBP grant, NDAM developed the Ag Wetland Trade program. The program connects willing landowners who restore, enhance, or create wetlands with producers who need mitigation credits to meet USDA conservation compliance requirements. The NDAM has successfully operated the Ag Wetland Trade mitigation bank since 2022 and has generated over 80 acres of wetland mitigation credit approved by North Dakota NRCS.

Additional WMBP funding would build on that successful investment by allowing NDAM to develop additional bank sites, expand the availability of credits across North Dakota, and improve access to timely and affordable mitigation options. The NDAM provides an important tool to help our producers remain conservation compliant while continuing to productively use agricultural land.

The NDAM has demonstrated that WMBP funding can support a practical, locally led mitigation program that serves agricultural producers while advancing conservation goals. We believe NDAM's application meets the goals and congressional intent of the WMBP and thus merits favorable consideration.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please keep us informed of the review process and feel free to contact our offices should you have any updates or inquiries.

Sincerely,

John Hoeven
U.S. Senator

Kevin Cramer
U.S. Senator

Julie Fedorchak
Member of Congress