



January 16, 2023

NSF Regional Innovation Engines Program
National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Program Director,

It is a pleasure to share our enthusiastic support of this proposal to the National Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engines program entitled *Northern Plains AgTech Engine for Food systems Adapted for Resiliency and Maximized Security (FARMS Engine)*.

The proposed *FARMS Engine* will leverage the unique environment and resources of North Dakota to accelerate integration of innovative technology and practices for agriculture to overcome current and future stressors, improve national and global security and increase national prosperity. The vision of the *FARMS Engine* is to become a model for integration of AgTech into widely diverse agricultural systems. The *FARMS Engine* will catalyze growth of new and existing efforts around use-inspired research, diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, workforce development and translation of technology to activate a thriving AgTech ecosystem in North Dakota.

Forbes recently rated North Dakota No. 3 on its Best States to Start a Business In 2023. Thanks in part to our tax-friendly business environment, entrepreneurs are choosing North Dakota. If funded, the *FARMS Engine* would propel North Dakota's commercialization, business development and entrepreneurship to new heights.

The governance board will play an important role in the development and success of the *FARMS Engine*. On behalf of our administration, Chief of Staff, Jace Beehler, will serve on the Governance Board. The participation of Mr. Beehler to collaborate in the governance board will be the sole commitment of the Governor's Office until the project has been selected, in which case, we will explore other needs from the state.

Please accept this letter as an acknowledgment that North Dakota will collaborate and/or commit resources as detailed in the proposal, entitled "*Northern Plains AgTech Engine for Food systems Adapted for Resiliency and Maximized Security*." North Dakota agrees to undertake the tasks described and commit to contribute or make available the resources described in the Project Description or the Existing and New Resources to be Made Available for the Project section of the proposal.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Burgum".

Doug Burgum
Governor