



Association of Minnesota Counties

March 29, 2022

Senator Torrey Westrom, Chair
Agriculture and Rural Development Finance and Policy Committee
3201 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: County Input on SF4019, A1 Delete Everything Amendment

Dear Senator Westrom and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), a voluntary association representing all 87 counties, we want to thank you for your work this session. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on the Agriculture Land Preservation provision included in the SF4019 A1 Delete Everything amendment.

AMC is interested in engaging with the state and other stakeholders on the preservation of agricultural land in Minnesota. **We appreciate the inclusion of the provision from SF2537 (Jasinski) to make solar gardens of 1 megawatt or less an allowed commercial and industrial operation in the Greater Minnesota Agricultural Land Preservation Program (Art 3, Sec 11).** This is added to a short list of operations currently part of the program. We think it provides another revenue source for farmers and maintains protections for tillable acres in the preserve.

We appreciated the committee robust discussion on the Agricultural Land Preservation Program and look forward to further discussions with the state and landowners on ag land preservation issues.

Again, thank you for including the solar garden allowance. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information about this proposal.

Sincerely,



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