



January 23, 2023

Senator Aric Putnam
Senate Agriculture, Broadband and Rural Development Committee
1150 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Putnam,

Thank you and the Members of the Committee for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of the confirmation of Thom Peterson as the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

My name is David Larson, and I am the Government Affairs Director for Cooperative Network. We are a two-state trade association of member-owned cooperatives of all kinds located throughout Minnesota & Wisconsin.

Cooperative Network has had a strong working relationship with Commissioner Petersen and his staff during his tenure as Commissioner of the department. He has reached out and been accessible when there have been issues that would impact Minnesota's cooperatives, and we very much appreciate his openness to working with us.

Commissioner Petersen has been a strong leader in the agriculture world, whether it be by presenting at agriculture events, including many of Cooperative Network's, or by working with the industry to craft policies that are beneficial for the entire state. His willingness to communicate on any issue sets an example of what a Commissioner should strive to be.

Again, we are happy to provide written testimony in support of Commissioner Thom Petersen's confirmation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Larson
Government Affairs Director
Cooperative Network

CC: Senate Agriculture, Broadband and Rural Development Committee Members