



January 23, 2023

Senate Agriculture, Broadband and Rural Development Committee  
Chair Aric Putnam  
3215 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue West  
St. Paul, MN 551155

Dear Chair Putnam and members of the committee,

The Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) supports the confirmation of Thom Petersen as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Commissioner Petersen is a tremendous advocate for agriculture and has done an exemplary job the last four years as Minnesota's agriculture commissioner working with a strong team in the Commissioner's office to guide the operations of the department to provide valuable services for farmers and those working in agriculture.

Dating back to his 16+ years with Minnesota Farmers Union, Thom has been a strong advocate for farmers and someone whose efforts have greatly elevated our state's ag sector. As commissioner, Thom's commitment to Minnesota agriculture continues to be evident in his willingness to always make himself available to hear a concern. Over the last four years, Thom has travelled every square inch of the state to attend meetings and hear directly from farmers. With the disruptions that the COVID-19 Pandemic caused, the extreme drought conditions in 2021, and High Path Avian influenza last year, Thom has relentlessly supported the state's agriculture sector through the many ups and downs that we have faced the last four years.

For our organization, Thom has been a great ally in our goal to expand access to higher biofuels blends to meet environmental goals for the state while helping our rural economy. We thank Thom for his hard work on our behalf and his dedication to Minnesota farmers. We look forward to continuing to work with him in his role as Commissioner.

It is for these reasons, and many more that MCGA strongly supports his confirmation to continue as our Commissioner of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Syverson".

Richard Syverson  
President  
Minnesota Corn Growers Association