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January 23, 2023

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

Chair Putnam and Members of the Committee:

The Minnesota Crop Production Retailers (MCPR) is a nonprofit organization representing agricultural retailers and distributors, crop input suppliers, crop advisors, and registrants who supply farmers throughout the State of Minnesota with a host of products and services.

We write to you today to support the confirmation of Thom Petersen to continue his service as the Commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. MCPR has enjoyed a strong working relationship with Commissioner Petersen and many of the staff at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture over the past four years.

We appreciate his commitment to Minnesota's robust and diverse agriculture community that touches every corner of the state. The impact he has had as Commissioner cannot be understated and his willingness to have a conversation or explore opportunities to grow a critical sector of Minnesota's economy should not go unnoticed.

MCPR has been fortunate to have Commissioner Petersen join our members at several events and gatherings since he was first appointed to this position within the Administration. We have always appreciated his accessibility and desire to learn from the members of the ag retail community, as well as collaborate on ideas to better the state of Minnesota agriculture in general. We truly appreciate all that he has done and look forward to his continued leadership.

We thank you in advance for the opportunity to provide this letter of support for the Commissioner's confirmation that will enable him to continue in his role with the Department.

Sincerely,

Executive Director
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers