



January 23, 2023

The Honorable Aric Putnam
Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee
3215 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Supporting the Confirmation of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen

Chairman Putnam and Members of the Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee:

We write to you in strong support of Governor Walz's appointment of Commissioner Thom Petersen to continue to serve as Minnesota's Commissioner of Agriculture and ask that you confirm his nomination.

As leaders in biofuel manufacturing, renewable co-products, and sustainable innovation, Minnesota Ethanol Producers Association members work closely with the Agriculture Commissioner and his staff to increase awareness and expand market access for homegrown bioproducts.

Commissioner Petersen has spent his entire career in agriculture and is intimately familiar with the solutions biofuels present for reaching a net-zero carbon future and the economic strength that bioprocessing provides to our rural communities. Throughout his distinguished career, he has been a tireless champion of farm families and biofuel workers, and his bipartisan leadership as Agriculture Commissioner has brought Minnesotans together behind sound public policy and greater opportunity for our state.

We are grateful that Governor Walz has chosen an excellent and well-qualified individual to lead the Department of Agriculture, and we hope you will join us in support of Commissioner Petersen's confirmation.

Sincerely,

CHRIS HANSON
General Manager
POET Biorefining—Preston

TERRY HURLBURT
General Manager
POET Biorefining—Bingham Lake

SHANE ROBY
General Manager
POET Biorefining—Lake Crystal

RUSS GERMANN
General Manager
POET Biorefining—Glenville