



January 23rd, 2023
Senate Agriculture, Broadband and Rural Development Committee
Chair Aric Putnam
3215 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Putnam and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the nearly 30,000 farm family members across the state represented by the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, I am writing this letter in support of the confirmation of Thom Petersen as the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Over the last four years, Thom has been a remarkable advocate for Minnesota farmers and ranchers. A farmer himself, Thom knows firsthand how policies and programs impact livelihoods in rural Minnesota, and he brings that knowledge and passion to his work daily.

Along with his extensive knowledge and passion for the industry, Mr. Petersen is consistently accessible to the needs of our members. He travels to every area of the state, hearing directly from producers about the issues facing the agriculture community while providing transparent updates.

Personally, I appreciate his view and approach to the role, which is to do what needs to be done to make Minnesota agriculture better not only for farmers but also consumers. Whether it is a statewide or local issue, he has been a phenomenal resource for those of us in the agricultural arena.

The agriculture community has faced significant challenges and adversity over the last four years. Between the COVID-19 pandemic, severe flooding and drought, and the HPAI outbreak, Thom has worked tirelessly to help the agriculture community obtain the tools they need to pull through difficult times.

Thom has truly been an ally on the multifaceted issues and policies of our grassroots membership, and we are grateful for his partnership over the last four years. I am pleased to support the confirmation of Thom to serve the agriculture community for another four years.

Sincerely,

Dan Glessing
President

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