



## MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION

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January 19, 2022

Senator Aric Putnam  
Chair, Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee  
3215 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave W  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Putnam and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Grocers Association, we would like to voice our support for the confirmation of Thom Petersen as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. As an industry that is regulated by the Department of Agriculture and works closely with the department on issues from farm-to-fork, we consider ourselves fortunate to have worked with Commissioner Petersen and his team over the last four years.

Commissioner Petersen continuously demonstrates a deep knowledge of agriculture issues both in Minnesota and internationally. He put this knowledge into practice by promoting common sense solutions which benefit all Minnesotans.


Commissioner Petersen's willingness to collaborate with industry and our membership has led to great partnership. He is a thoughtful leader who seeks input from stakeholders to inform his decision-making process. He is easy-going and approachable, and aims to achieve positive results for all affected by an issue.

His leadership was particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. He was a dedicated partner in finding solutions to food supply chain difficulties and ensured that Minnesotans could still access the products they needed during an incredibly uncertain time.

Commissioner Petersen epitomizes the experienced and dependable leadership that the state needs for its successful future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jamie L. Pfuhl  
President