

1/19/2023

Senate Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
Room 1150
95 University Ave. W
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Confirmation of Mr. Thom Petersen for Agriculture Commissioner

Dear Senator Putnam and members of the Senate Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee:

The Minnesota Turkey Growers Association (MTGA) writes today to express full and unwavering support for the confirmation of Mr. Thom Petersen as Commission of Agriculture for the state of Minnesota.

Minnesota is the number one turkey producing state in the nation, producing nearly 46 million turkeys every year. MTGA is an organization of individual members that represent each and every sector of the turkey industry. Our mission is to enhance the success of Minnesota's turkey industry through member engagement, strong advocacy with legislators, and public outreach.

During the 2022 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak, Mr. Petersen advocated for the necessary resources to expand the ability of the Department of Agriculture and the Board of Animal Health to support Minnesota's turkey growers' response efforts. Because of this, Minnesota continues to lead the nation in HPAI response efforts - working tirelessly to stamp out the disease as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Additionally, Mr. Petersen is an advocate for the advancement of necessary programs to support farmers outside of traditional farm-level programming. He and his team are advocates of caring for farmers and their families with robust mental health programs.

Mr. Petersen has successfully demonstrated his ability to serve in this capacity during Governor Walz's first term in office and has indicated he has the passion and energy to continue serving agriculture in the Governor's second term.

We ask the Senate Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee fully support Mr. Petersen's confirmation.

Best,



Ashley Kohls
Executive Director
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association