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February 13, 2022

Chair Aric Putnam
Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Committee
95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Putnam and members of the committee:

On behalf of Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU), I write to thank you for your work to expand consumer access to higher blends of biofuels and to share our strong support for Senator Kupec's SF1246. We believe bill reflects an important opportunity to lower carbon emissions, lower the price consumers pay at the pump, and strengthen an important market for many family farmers.

MFU is a grassroots organization that has represented Minnesota's family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities since 1918. Our members support expanding the use of higher-octane, cleaner-burning biofuels, including through upgrading the infrastructure at fuel retailers across the state. We often hear from members who want to purchase E15 and higher blend fuels but can't find a service station that sells it near their home or business. Purchasing blended fuel is important to them not only because it saves them money, but also because they know that their dollars are going back into Minnesota's agriculture economy.

Even beyond lowering consumer prices and the benefits to our rural economy, improving consumer access to higher blend fuels through infrastructure upgrades will lower carbon emissions from our existing transportation fleet. This proposal is a win-win-win for consumers, rural communities, and the climate.

We appreciate your attention and thank Senator Kupec for his leadership. If you have any questions, please contact our Government Relations Director, Stu Lourey, at stu@mfu.org or (320) 232-2047 (C). Thank you for considering the needs and perspectives of Minnesota's farm families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Wertish". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Wertish
President, Minnesota Farmers Union