



# Association of Minnesota Counties

125 Charles Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55103-2108 | [www.mncounties.org](http://www.mncounties.org)

February 14, 2023

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

**Re: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act, State Funding**

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members:

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), a membership-based organization representing all 87 Minnesota counties, appreciates the opportunity to offer our **support of SF1312, which establishes base funding for county agricultural inspectors.**

When the role and responsibilities of a county agricultural inspector was established in state statute in the late 1920's, implementation and enforcement of the noxious weed program was a modest task, borne out of a need to manage Canadian Thistle. In January 2023, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) added nine new weeds to the state's Noxious Weed List, growing the number of prohibited, restricted, and regulated species to 59.

These plants are placed on the Noxious Weed List because they may be harmful to public health, the environment, public roads, crops, livestock, or other property. The county ag inspectors work hand in hand with the MDA and other local weed inspectors to identify and manage these plants for public and environmental benefit.

Unfortunately, there has not been state support for this work. **AMC supports SF1312 because it will enhance the capacity and capabilities of all county agricultural inspectors, leading to improved statewide outcomes.**

Sincerely,



Brian Martinson, Policy Analyst  
*Association of Minnesota Counties*