



February 16, 2023

Senator Aric Putnam  
Chair of the Minnesota Senate Committee on Agriculture, Broadband and Rural Development  
3215 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue West  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: AURI letter in support of SF1256

Senator Aric Putnam Chair of the Minnesota Senate Committee on Agriculture, Broadband and Rural Development and committee members:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support on behalf of the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI) in support of SF1256. AURI is a non-profit corporation funded primarily by the State of Minnesota with a mission to foster long-term economic benefit for Minnesota through value-added agricultural products. AURI accomplishes this by developing new uses for agricultural products through science and technology, using a deliberate approach on multiple levels, including focused basic research, public information dissemination, building strategic collaborations among partners and by placing a strong emphasis on applications with near-term implementation plans.

For more than three decades, AURI has helped cooperatives with developing products, improving processing, finding raw materials and converting byproducts to income streams. AURI's Cooperative Development Center helps start-ups or existing cooperatives understand the feasibility of starting a new operation or creating an enterprise.

SF1256 would be a valuable tool to leverage state dollars with federal dollars to move cooperative agricultural ventures forward, strengthening the agricultural ecosystem in Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration of passing SF1256.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon M. Schlecht', with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Shannon M. Schlecht  
Executive Director