



March 20th 2023

Chair Aric Putnam
Senate Agriculture, Broadband and Rural Development Committee
Minnesota Senate Building Room 3215
95 University Ave West
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Putnam, Ranking Member Westrom and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA), I would like to submit the following written testimony in support of SF 2513. MCGA represents nearly 7,000 family farm members from around the state and represents all 24,000 Minnesota corn farmers who support research and education efforts through their participation in the corn checkoff program. MCGA appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate File 2513 that would allow for grants to cooperatives to begin producing green nitrogen fertilizer.

Through on farm technology investments, biofuels production and precision agriculture tools, Minnesota farmers have continued to find ways to be a part of the solution as the state and country look at ways to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Through the Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council (MCR&PC), Minnesota corn farmers have invested in research looking at production of green fertilizers. Over a decade ago, the MCR&PC supported research projects at the University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center aimed at producing ammonia using wind energy. Minnesota corn farmers invested in this research, work out of a belief that local production of sustainably produced fertilizer could improve the value proposition of corn production and support local economic development.

SF 2513 would allow Minnesota farmers, through their cooperative, to begin the production of green fertilizer that could be applied to millions of acres in the state. Giving farmer-owned cooperatives the tools to begin producing and using lower carbon intensive fertilizers will not only reduce GHG emissions but also allow for a stable source for fertilizer as global market volatility has resulted in record prices for conventional nitrogen fertilizers over the last two years.

MCGA strongly supports SF 2513 and we appreciate Chair Putnam bringing this bill forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Syverson".

Richard Syverson
President
Minnesota Corn Growers Association