



305 Roselawn Ave E | Suite 200 | St. Paul, MN 55117
Phone: (651) 639-1223 | www.mfu.org

March 20, 2023

Chair Aric Putnam
Senate Agriculture Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Putnam and members of the committee:

On behalf of Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU), I write to share our organization's support for Senator Putnam's bill (SF2513) which supports investment in farmer-owned green fertilizer production using renewable energy. This initiative will help Minnesota lead and ensure that a transition toward a zero carbon economy is leveraged to benefit farmers and rural communities.

MFU is a grassroots organization that has represented Minnesota's family farmers, ranchers and rural communities since 1918. At our most recent annual convention our members voted to make climate resilience a top priority for this year. This bill invests in technology that has the potential to significantly decarbonize a major industry in the agriculture sector, while supporting farm cooperatives and family farmers in Minnesota.

There are many benefits of green fertilizer including decarbonization of the agricultural sector, increased economic resilience for farmers and rural communities through cooperative ownership, and scaling of novel green hydrogen energy applications within Minnesota in years to come. One major benefit is the reduction of carbon intensity for agricultural production. Globally, nitrogen fertilizer contributes 2% of total greenhouse gas emissions, with green fertilizer offering a solution for decarbonizing agriculture in a way that works for family farmers.

Another benefit of green fertilizer is the potential for farmer-owned cooperatives to operate facilities and create a stable and affordable price for crop inputs. Investing in locally produced green fertilizer will create economic resilience in Minnesota agriculture.

We thank Senator Putnam for his important leadership on this issue. 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