



March 14, 2023

Chair Matt Klein
Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
RE: Senate File 2064
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2105
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Klein,

Thank you and the Members of the Committee for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate File 2064.

My name is David Larson, and I am the Government Affairs Director for Cooperative Network. Our members are owned by millions of residents throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin and include member-owned farm supply, dairy marketing, livestock marketing, financial, health care, mutual insurance, processing, electric utility, housing, food, and worker-owned cooperatives, among others.

We appreciate Senator Kupec and his co-author for bringing this important bill in front of the Committee to lower the premium rates for members of an agricultural cooperative association health plan and to raise awareness of its benefits.

40 Square Cooperative Solutions, a Cooperative Network member, is Minnesota's only agricultural co-op focusing exclusively on providing farm families, agribusiness – and their employees – along with agriculture trade associations and cooperatives access to self-funded health plan options. Unlike other health plans, 40 Square was unable to participate in the state's reinsurance program. Senate File 2064 would ensure that these health plans would remain competitive in the marketplace by leveling the playing field.

With this legislation, agricultural cooperative association health plans would be allowed to lower premiums, expand coverage, and offer more benefits to Minnesota's agriculture community.

On behalf of our cooperative members, we respectfully request your support of Senate File 2064.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Larson
Government Affairs Director
Cooperative Network

CC: Members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee