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February 26, 2023

Chair Nick Frentz  
Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3109  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Frentz and members of the committee:

On behalf of Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU), I write to share our strong support for Senator Dibble's SF1783 and providing additional funding to the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs). In partnering with their staff across the state, we have found CERTs to be a reliable and responsive source of nonbiased information that helps our members make smart investments in efficiency, solar, and clean energy projects.

MFU is a grassroots membership organization that has represented Minnesota's family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities since 1918. Our members care about clean energy not only because they are among those on the front lines of climate change, but also because they see opportunities to lower energy costs, diversify income, and make their farm businesses resilient.

Over the past 7 years, MFU has been proud to partner with CERTs to host Clean Energy Working Sessions across the state. Most recently, we hosted a meeting in Stearns County attended by 60 farmers who were curious to learn more about solar. At these events, some farmers come eager to find ways to incorporate solar onto their farm and others are more skeptical, looking for nonbiased information about changes they're seeing in their community. Regardless, CERTs is responsive, accountable, and resourceful, helping our members and others feel confident in decisions they're making related to clean energy.

Based on this experience and others we are glad to place our support behind CERTs and Senator Dibble's bill. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact our Government Relations Director, Stu Lourey, at [stu@mfu.org](mailto:stu@mfu.org) or (320) 232-3047. 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 style with a large, looped "G" and "W".

Gary Wertish  
President, Minnesota Farmers Union