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March 15, 2023

Chair Nick Frentz
Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee
3109 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Frentz and committee members:

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 green fertilizer production using renewable energy.

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 reduce the use of fossil fuels in a major industry in the agriculture sector, while supporting farm cooperatives and family farmers in Minnesota.

There are many benefits of green fertilizer including reducing the climate impact of the agricultural sector, increased economic resilience for farmers and rural communities through cooperative ownership, and through novel green hydrogen energy applications within Minnesota in years to come. One major benefit is the reduction of carbon intensity for agricultural production. Nitrogen fertilizer contributes significantly to total greenhouse gas emissions, with green fertilizer offering a solution for reducing this impact in agriculture.

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.

MFU thanks Senator Putnam for bringing forward this bill that supports Minnesota farmers and farm cooperatives. 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 style with a large, looped "G" and "W".

Gary Wertish
President, Minnesota Farmers Union