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Senator Nick Frentz
3109 Minnesota Senate Building
Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee
95 University Ave W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 29, 2023

Dear Chair Frentz and Members of the Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee

As the Committee reviews the DE amendment to SF2847, we thank the committee for its work to help people and nature respond and adapt to climate change and make Minnesota more resilient; there are many appropriations in the proposed bill that will address challenges facing the state.

While we applaud the proposed omnibus for its robust climate investments, if there is a future opportunity to do so, we encourage the committee to consider adding a \$1,000,000 base appropriation for the University of Minnesota Extension Service to enhance the capacity for Minnesota's agricultural sector, working lands, and communities to respond to climate change impacts. This program - as reflected in SF2547 authored by Chair Frentz - would build critical scientific capacity and establish a strong foundation for extension and outreach services to support climate preparedness and adaptation across the state.

Science affirms that nature is a significant tool to be leveraged to meet the state's carbon sequestration goals and build community resiliency. This program would provide outreach and technical assistance to farmers and private landowners that support their operations as working lands face more frequent and extreme weather events such as droughts and floods. This would be the first program of its kind nationally and will position the state to leverage federal funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and other federal programs.

As the committee considers investments that can address climate change and make Minnesota more resilient, we encourage you to include this program alongside additional natural climate solutions in other committee areas like Agriculture, Capital Investment, and Environment & Natural Resources.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Pinkalla
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