



April 11, 2023

Chair John Marty
Senate Finance Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3235
St. Paul, MN 55103

Chair Marty and Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) appreciates the opportunity to share written testimony on behalf of our nearly 30,000 members to highlight MFBF's support for specific provisions included in S.F. 1955. Based on MFBF policy set by our grassroots membership across the state's 87 counties, MFBF specifically wants to identify support for the following provisions included in S.F. 1955:

- Creation and funding for the Soil Health Financial Assistance Program;
- Continued investment and support for beginning farmers;
- Continued investment for the Agriculture Growth, Research and Innovation program (AGRI);
- Funding for biofuels infrastructure;
- Further support for rural mental health resources;
- Investment into the Agriculture Emergency account and Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory;
- New investments for meat processing and butchery in Minnesota;
- Grants to facilitate the start-up, modernization or expansion of meat, poultry, egg and milk processing facilities in Minnesota;
- Funding for Minnesota's county fairs to preserve and promote Minnesota agriculture;
- Strong investment into the Agriculture Research, Education, Extension and Technology Transfer program (AGREETT);
- Continued financial support for the Minnesota Agricultural Education and Leadership Council;
- Support for marketing opportunities for Minnesota agriculture— both domestic and international;
- Continued investment into the Dairy Development and Profitability Enhancement programs;
- Appropriations for the wolf and elk depredation accounts; and
- Appropriations for crop damage accounts.

MFBF greatly appreciates the leadership of Senator Putnam on this bill. If there are any questions from members of the committee, please do not hesitate to reach out to Pierce Bennett, Director of Public Policy at pierce.bennett@fbmn.org or Kaytlin Bemis, Public Policy Specialist at kaytlin.bemis@fbmn.org.

Physical Address: 3080 Eagandale Place, Eagan, MN 55121-2118 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 64370, St. Paul, MN 55164-0370

Phone: 651.768.2100 Fax: 651.768.2159 Email: info@fbmn.org www.fbmn.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Glessing". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

Dan Glessing
President