



March 8, 2023

Chair Scott Dibble
Senate Transportation Committee
RE: Senate File 894
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3107
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Dibble,

Thank you and the Members of the Committee for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate File 894.

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 Frenz and his co-authors for bringing this important bill in front of the Committee to add soybean oil to the list of qualifying products included under the specialty farm product permits. This would be the same permit type that farmers currently use to transport their soybeans to processing facilities.

CHS, a Cooperative Network member, has recently invested millions of dollars into a soybean oil processing facility in Mankato to increase their refining capacity to meet higher demand, and this facility will continue to receive its soybean oil from their own soybean crush facility in Fairmont. This bill, with the addition of soybean oil to the specialty farm products list, would reduce the number of trucks on the road and increase the efficiency of each load on this specific route.

On behalf of our cooperative members, we respectfully request your support of Senate File 894.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Larson
Government Affairs Director
Cooperative Network

CC: Members of the Senate Transportation Committee