



February 26, 2024

Senator Putnam
Senate Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee
95 University Avenue W.
3215 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Putnam & Committee Members,

The Minnesota Grain and Feed Association (MGFA), which represents the grain elevator and feed mill industry in Minnesota, fully supports SF 3719, extending the legislation authorizing the Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC) and the agricultural fertilizer and research education account fee creation.

Since AFREC was created, the Council has allocated millions of dollars generated by the fertilizer tonnage fees paid by Minnesota farmers to fund important and timely soil fertility research and education projects. Minnesota producers, and agriculture in general, have directly benefitted from these research and education projects. A multi-year extension would allow the continuation of funding important research and education that has been performed for more than fifteen years in Minnesota.

Many of the research projects funded by AFREC have longer completion terms (3 to 5 years), allowing researchers to gather data over multiple growing seasons and varied weather conditions. With the proposed ten-year extension of AFREC and the funding provided by the fertilizer tonnage fees, the Council would be allowed greater flexibility to fund appropriate research project lengths.

The Minnesota Grain and Feed Association appreciates the opportunity to be a part of such an important group of agricultural collaborators on behalf of Minnesota's farmers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Laura Lemke', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Laura Lemke
Executive Director
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association