

March 11, 2024

Senate Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy C/O [kara.josephson@mnsenate.gov](mailto:kara.josephson@mnsenate.gov)

Dear Chair Hawj and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council (AgriGrowth), I am writing to express our opposition to Senate File 4234 requiring a mandatory environmental impact statement (EIS) for large animal projects in Minnesota.

Founded in 1968, AgriGrowth convenes leaders from across Minnesota's agri-food system and advocates on behalf of our industry. Our 150 members include farmers, cooperatives, academic institutions, lenders, legal and other service providers, transportation and energy companies, and agribusinesses.

AgriGrowth members work diligently to set our annual state legislative priorities. For more than a decade, those priorities have included the need to reform and improve Minnesota's regulatory process. Unanimous agreement exists among our members that this process is not based on data, science, or modern production methods and limits our farmers, cooperatives, and agribusinesses unable to compete in our region, nation, and the world.

With nearly \$40 billion in total value added each year, the agri-food industry is Minnesota's second largest economic driver and an integral part of our state's rural and urban economy. According to Minnesota's Ag Economic Contribution Study, our industry also contributes \$106 billion in sales, \$21.4 billion in household income, and 400,000 jobs to our state. Not only do increasing requirements limit our industry and our state's economic success, they also send a clear message to firms and investors that Minnesota is not interested in their business.

We believe the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) already has a thorough process for environmental review of animal feedlots. In fact, because of our focus on improving Minnesota's regulatory process, AgriGrowth and 7 other state ag associations have been meeting regularly with MPCA for more than a year to discuss more practical guidelines and processes for permitting. We appreciate that opportunity to make input into what is already a robust MPCA process.

We oppose restrictions that not only increase the regulatory burden and costs associated with doing business in our state, but also dampen the ability of our great industry to continue to provide jobs, food, fuel, and fiber to our state and the world.

Sincerely,



Tamara A. Nelsen  
Executive Director