

March 12, 2024

Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Chair Sen. Founj Hawj
Room 1150 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155



RE: Minnesota Pork Producers Association Opposition to SF 4234

Chair Hawj and members of the committee,

The Minnesota Pork Producers Association respectfully submits the following written testimony on SF 4234 requiring an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for large animal projects. The Minnesota Pork Producers Association (MPPA) represents Minnesota's more than 3,000 family pig farmers. Our farmers are proud of their work to provide safe and affordable food for a growing world while doing what is right for our animals, people, and the environment.

Our farmers have concerns regarding SF 4234, which looks to set a mandatory threshold for an environmental impact statement.

Minnesota has a comprehensive environmental review process, guided by standards with which our farmers are committed to operating within. Through environmental review processes that exist today for Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAW) and NPDES and SDS permits, each of these reflects the environmental review needs for varying types of livestock, and the location of the project, while considering many factors to determine potential environmental impacts of a project including land, air, water, and greenhouse gases.

The current environmental review and permitting process in Minnesota is extensive. The process often necessitates hiring an environmental consultant to prepare and navigate the process. Environmental review comes with lengthy review times and comes at a higher cost to farmers as compared to our neighboring states. Legislation to expand the process will continue to put Minnesota at a competitive disadvantage compared to our neighboring states. We believe our environmental regulations are strong in our state, however, further expanding and complicating the process does not serve Minnesotans, our environment, or our family farmers.

We believe it is unnecessary to have a statute stipulating when an Environmental Impact Statement should occur. Through the existing EAW review process, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency commissioner considers the information presented and can determine the need for additional information and review through an EIS.

We welcome the opportunity to work with the author to find ways to continue improving the environmental review process while ensuring Minnesota is a state where family farms can continue to grow and thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daryl Timmerman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daryl Timmerman
President, Minnesota Pork Producers Association