

# Minnesota State Senate

Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee  
Wednesday, February 12, 2025  
3:00 PM, 1150 Minnesota Senate Bldg.

## Minutes

**Present:** Senator Aric Putnam - **Chair**, Senator Robert J. Kupec - **Vice Chair**, Senator Torrey N. Westrom - **Ranking Minority Member**, Senator Gary H. Dahms, Senator Gene Dornink, Senator Heather Gustafson, Senator Mary K. Kunesh, Senator Judy Seeberger

**Absent:** Senator Bruce D. Anderson

Senator Aric Putnam called the meeting to order at 3:06pm.

### Call to Order

**S.F. 1220: Senator Seeberger: University of Minnesota Forever Green Initiative money transfer provision.**

Testifiers: Dr. Mitch Hunter – Co-Director, Forever Green Initiative, Anne Schwagerl – Vice President, Minnesota Farmers Union, Ben Bowditch – Category Manager, Natural/Organic Grains & Oils, General Mills, Dominic Jones – Manager, Red Rock Rural Water System, Jeff Davidman - Vice President, State and Local Government Affairs, Delta Air Lines

Amendments: Senator Kupec moved A-1 amendment, motion passed on a voice vote. Motion adopted.

Testifiers: CLC Value Chain Grants

Testifiers: Katherine Chute – Product and Market Development Specialist, UMN Forever Green Initiative, Diane Christofore – Executive Director, Regenerative Agriculture Alliance, Ben Penner – Founder, Ben Penner Farms, Paul Novotny, Farmer, Member, Chatfield City Council, David Stennes, CEO/Founder, Arcola Farms

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 1220, as amended, laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

**S.F. 934: Senator Kupec: Agricultural Utilization Research Institute appropriation.**

Testifiers: Shannon Schlecht - Executive Director, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI), Frederico Tripodi – Board Chair, AURI, Hunter Pederson – Public Policy Specialist, Minnesota Farm Bureau

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 934, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

**S.F. 1178: Senator Kupec: Money transferal into the agriculture research, education, extension, and technology transfer (AGREETT) account.**

Testifiers: Keith Olander - Northern Ag Center Director, Tina LeBrun - Southern Ag Center Director, Zach Rada – FBM Instructor, Minnesota West College, Anne Schwagerl – Vice President, Minnesota Farmers Union, Hunter Pederson – Public Policy Specialist, Minnesota Farm Bureau

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 1178, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57pm



Senator Aric Putnam, Chair



Keely Spens, Legislative Assistant