



Climate Land Leaders are working with compassion and commitment to address the climate crisis on their lands

March 4, 2025

Senator Aric Putnam, Chairperson
Minnesota Senate Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development Finance and
Policy Committee

RE: SF 0882, sponsored by Senator Heather Gustafson

Dear Senator Putnam and Committee members,

On behalf of Climate Land Leaders (CLL), I request your support of SF 0882, the Soil Health Financial Assistance Program appropriation sponsored by Senator Gustafson.

Climate Land Leaders is comprised of farmers and landowners who are using conservation and soil health practices on their farms to reduce carbon emissions, foster clean air and water and achieve resilience in the face of an ever-changing climate. They use programs such as the Soil Health Financial Assistance Program to help incentivize equipment retrofits, upgrades and purchases such as roller crimpers and no till drills that are important soil health investments. In this changing economic climate, the financial risk remains high for farmers who are incorporating regenerative practices that help achieve environmental services and a reduction in carbon emissions. This 50 percent cost share helps minimize the risk, which benefits not just the farmer, but the community as a whole.

The Soil Health Financial Assistance Program is another innovative, popular state Department of Agriculture initiative. The bill would carry over unencumbered funds from FY 2026 into FY 2027, and allows funds that are encumbered by June 30, 2027 to be used until June 30, 2029, providing necessary flexibility to farmers in these uncertain times.

Please support SF 0882.

Thank you for your consideration.

Theresa M. Keaveny, State Policy Lead
Climate Land Leaders

Mission: Landowners create community and support to alleviate climate change through land stewardship and conservation.

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