



March 11, 2025

Chair Aric Putnam

Senate Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee

3215 Minnesota Senate Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Putnam and members of the committee,

Minnesota's agriculture economy is at a crossroads. While Minnesota is still home to some of the world's premier food and agriculture companies, including Hormel, Cargill, American Crystal Sugar, CHS, Land O'Lakes, and General Mills, the state's position as a global agricultural leader is increasingly in question.

The University of Minnesota's proposed The Future of Advanced Agricultural Research in Minnesota (FAARM) campus is bold thinking and a cutting-edge initiative to strengthen Minnesota's leadership position. FAARM is an integrated, innovative approach to research that addresses some of our biggest agricultural challenges. FAARM will study the complex intersection between crop and animal production, soil, water, nutrition, and the environment. This necessary research can improve the financial viability of farming, grow our rural economies, and protect our environment and climate.

Public-private partnerships are sprouting up in the global race to develop the newest technologies, practices, data, and products to protect animals from the latest disease outbreaks, improve soil health, adapt to climate change, increase efficiency, and make farming more sustainable. Last year, a public-private partnership developed Grand Farm, a global AgTech innovation center in Casselton, North Dakota. Minnesota needs a bold initiative like FAARM to compete for public and private funding to advance research and strengthen its global food and agriculture leader position.

Minnesota AgriGrowth fully supports the University of Minnesota's efforts to develop FAARM and encourages the legislature to provide the necessary funding to make this initiative a reality.

Best wishes,

Darin Broton, Executive Director  
Minnesota AgriGrowth