



March 20, 2025

Senator Aric Putnam  
Chair  
Senate Agriculture, Veterans,  
Broadband and Rural Development Committee  
1150 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Chair Putnam and Members of the Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of S.F. 1172, a bill to create an agricultural growth, research, and innovation (AGRI) program account in the agricultural fund within the state treasury.

The Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association (MBA) is the largest non-profit renewable fuel trade association in the state, representing nine ethanol facilities that collectively produced nearly 800 million gallons of ethanol and, along with the entire statewide ethanol industry, contributed \$2.1 billion to Minnesota's economy in 2024.

Since its establishment, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's AGRI program has helped support all of Minnesota agriculture, including renewable fuel producers through the Biofuels Infrastructure Grant and Bioincentive programs.

Agricultural production and value-added processing are major contributors to the state's economy, but funding for the sector makes up just one-quarter of 1 percent of the state budget. We support S.F. 1172 because it will ensure that state funding appropriated for the purpose of supporting agriculture in Minnesota will remain dedicated for Minnesota agriculture.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. We look forward to working with you to strengthen Minnesota's agricultural economy.

Sincerely,

Brian Werner  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association