

Sargeant Grain Company

302 Main Street NW
Sargeant, MN 55973

March 21, 2025

To: MN Senate Agriculture Committee
Nick Roth, the Committee Administrator
nick.roth@mnsenate.gov

From: Sargeant Grain Company
302 Main Street NW
Sargeant, MN 55973
(507) 584-6870

Re: SF2458 Grain Licensing Fee Increase

Dear Committee,

I would like to express my opposition to SF2458, Grain Licensing Fee Increase.

Sargeant Grain Company was established by my grandfather Lyall Larson in 1965. My father Larry Larson took over in the 1980's and I took over from my father in the 2000's. I am in the process of bringing my two sons, Jacob and Benjamin into our business.

The proposed legislation would double our licensing fees. You may say it is only \$2,000 more. I would say small agriculture businesses are being slowly killed by a death of a thousand cuts. We face increases in expense in every area of our business, while our margin structure has not increased in decades.

The proof is very easy to see. Independently owned country elevators are almost gone. Local elevators have been closed or have been gobbled up by larger corporate operators. My four closest competitors have around 70 locations. Thirty years ago, these were probably 35 different coops or independent elevators.

So, I am asking you not to increase grain licensing fees on small country elevators.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Larson', written over a horizontal line.

Donald Larson