

Minnesota State Senate

Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee
Monday, March 24, 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 Bruce D. Anderson, Senator Gary H. Dahms, Senator Gene Dornink, Senator Heather Gustafson, Senator Mary K. Kunesh, Senator Judy Seeberger

Absent: No Members Absent

Senator Aric Putnam called the meeting to order at 3:05pm

Call to Order

Gavel changed to Senator Kupec at 3:58pm. Gavel changed to Senator Putnam at 4:37pm.

Women in Agriculture Presentation

- Susanne Hinrichs, U of M Extension Educator
- Gail Donkers, Donkers’ Dorsets and Babydolls, PJM Farms, Faribault
- Jeanne Anderson, Simple Living Farm, Montevideo
- Jessica Westbrook & Trista Gareri, Sunflower Farms, New London

S.F. 1121: Senator Frentz: Agriculture-related business assistance appropriation.

Testifiers:

- Sam Ziegler, Green Seam
- Robin Tidd, Agriculture Teacher, Mankato Area Public High School

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 1121, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 1935: Senator Mohamed: Elective declawing of cats prohibition.

Testifiers:

- Dr. Ronald Gaskin DVM, Owner, Main Street Veterinary Service
- Megan Hamilton, Owner, Basil’s Cradle
- Dr. Trevor Ames, Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 1935, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 2611: Senator Putnam: Livestock market agency and dealer licensing provisions modification.

Senator Putnam moves the A-2 amendment. Amendment is adopted.

Senator Kupec moved that S.F. 2611, as amended, laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 2610: Senator Putnam: Beginning farmer program provisions modification.

Senator Putnam moves the A-1 amendment. Amendment is adopted.

Senator Kupec moved that S.F. 2610, as amended, laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 2458: Senator Putnam: Department of Agriculture, the Board of Animal Health, and the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute budget establishment.

- Nick Milanowski, Plant Protection Manager, MN Department of Agriculture
- Matthew McDevitt, Finance and Budget, MN Department of Agriculture
- Thom Petersen, Commissioner, MN Department of Agriculture
- Dan Sparks, Director of Government and Industry Relations, AURI
- Laura Lemke, Executive Director, MN Grain and Feed Association

Senator Kupec moved that S.F. 2458, as amended, laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 2809: Senator Kunesh: Mental health outreach and support and farm safety grant and outreach programs appropriation.

Testifiers:

- Hunter Pederson, Public Policy Specialist, MN Farm Bureau Federation
- Gail Donkers, Outreach and Membership, MN Farmers Union
- Paul Hugunin, Marketing and Development, MN Dept of Agriculture

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 2809, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 739: Senator Westrom: Importation of live Cervidae permission to certain accredited facilities.

Testifiers:

- Joan Hemker, Owner, Hemker Zoo

Senator Westrom moves the A-1 amendment. Amendment is adopted.

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 739, as amended, laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 1299: Senator Lang: Appropriation amendment for a Litchfield wastewater industrial pretreatment facility.

Testifiers:

- Bob Huffman, CEO, First District Association, Dairy Cooperative

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 1299, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm



Senator Aric Putnam, Chair

Keely Spens, Legislative Assistant