



May 8, 2025

Senator Sandra L. Pappas, Chair
Minnesota Senate Capital Investment Committee
2113 Minnesota Senate Bldg
95 University Ave W
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for SF 1209 (Putnam)

Dear Chair Pappas and Members of the Committee,

Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) is a nonpartisan, grassroots general farm organization representing over 31,000 farm and ranch families statewide. Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for SF 1209.

MFBF supports funding for the Rural Finance Authority. The RFA plays a critical role in ensuring that farmers—especially beginning farmers and those facing financial distress—have access to the capital they need to establish and sustain their operations. By providing affordable and flexible low-interest loan programs, the RFA supports not only individual farmers but also the broader agricultural economy.

The RFA's loan programs, including the Beginning Farmer Loan Program and Restructuring Loan Program, have proven to be invaluable tools in keeping family farms in operation. These programs help new farmers enter the industry and assist existing farmers in navigating financial hardship, ultimately contributing to rural economic stability.

Continued investment in the RFA is not just an investment in individual farms or farmers—it is an investment in the economic health of our rural communities. We appreciate Senator Putnam's bipartisan leadership on this bill and urge the Committee's support.

Sincerely,

Dan Glessing, President
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation

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