

April 4, 2025

Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee
1150 Minnesota Senate Building



RE: Permitting Reform

Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee members,

Minnesota's farmers and agribusinesses remain stymied in their growth potential as Minnesota continues to be a difficult place to grow and develop businesses. A drawn-out and inconsistent permitting process, paired with an increasingly burdensome tax and labor environment, all add costs that exceed the willingness of farmers and other food and agribusiness owners to continue investing in their farms and businesses here in Minnesota. For these reasons, the Minnesota Pork Producers Association supports SF 570.

For Minnesota's more than 3,000 family pig farmers, a timely, predictable, and consistent environmental permitting process is paramount. The cost to permit a pig barn in Minnesota is significantly higher than in our neighboring states, according to a study done by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The review process can also be delayed, with any administrative pause further delaying timelines, increasing costs, and even halting a project altogether. Many decisions and commitments are being made by farmers before submitting a permit; a consistent environmental review and permit approval timeline is critical.

Just like every other Minnesotan, pig farmers deeply care for our state's valuable natural resources and are committed to operating within their permits and doing the right thing for our animals, our communities, and the environment. This discussion isn't about reducing environmental protections. Farmers know what it takes to manage an environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable farm. In rural Minnesota, agriculture, particularly livestock production, is a cornerstone of the local economy, driving opportunities for businesses, creating jobs, and adding vibrancy to rural communities. Meaningful permitting reform is a vital step in the process needed to further unlock the potential of agriculture in Minnesota.

Pig farmers and the Minnesota Pork Producers Association look forward to engaging with legislators and the agencies to find solutions that meet the needs of Minnesota's family farmers while creating opportunities for future generations of farmers and agribusiness owners while protecting our shared natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Selvik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Todd Selvik
President, Minnesota Pork Producers Association