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Members of the Senate Committee on Taxes -

I am Kent Hartwig Director of State Government Affairs for Gevo, Inc. Gevo is a renewable fuels and chemicals company focused on the commercialization of sustainable aviation fuel ("SAF"). We have a footprint throughout the United States that includes a demonstration facility in Luverne, Minnesota where we have developed fuels and processes for larger scale up.

Gevo is strongly supportive of SF 1312, an expansion of the Minnesota SAF incentive, and we are grateful to Senator Rest for bringing this bill forward. This legislation is an important step for Minnesota airports and consumers to access the carbon and pollution reductions available through SAF, growing the volume of fuel available within the existing credit.

Not only does this legislation aid in driving fuel to the Minnesota market, but it is important for the build-out of SAF production domestically. Building demand for SAF outside of the West Coast demonstrates to investors that SAF is ready for the necessary financing to grow production to meet demand. The presence of supportive, well-funded policy is a key signal to Wall Street to invest.

The expanded SAF incentive as proposed in SF 1312 is necessary in Minnesota to overcome market pulls to the Low Carbon Fuel Standards in California and Oregon. Because U.S. SAF production is a small volume, SAF is sent to states with the highest value market. The existing SAF incentive and this increase covers the difference in the LCFS market and allows fuel to flow to MSP and other Minnesota airports.

The aviation industry understands the challenges they face in reducing carbon emissions because there is no meaningful way to electrify air travel. Therefore, SAF is a needed fuel to meet the goals of their customers. Because of this, SAF made from agricultural crops is a more immediate opportunity, and at Gevo, we are working to ensure the product we create is the lowest carbon fuel available.

Our first commercial-scale production facility that is in the financing and development phase in Lake Preston, South Dakota is expected to annually produce 65 million gallons of low CI hydrocarbons, including SAF, renewable diesel, and naphtha. We are taking significant efforts to de-fossilize and de-carbonize the inputs and plant emissions to the greatest extent possible. To achieve a net-zero carbon plant, Gevo is committed to reducing fossil emissions by using renewable electricity from a 100-megawatt wind farm,

producing green hydrogen on-site, and use renewable natural gas from methane digesters.

Not only is Gevo focused on reducing the carbon impact our plant has, but also on reducing the carbon intensity of our feedstock to ultimately reduce the CI of the fuel. This is done through working directly with farmers to encourage regenerative agricultural practices that reduce their carbon emissions. This includes low- and no-till practices, cover-crops, less diesel consumption, and reduced synthetic fertilizer application. Gevo is building a system to track field level data and ultimately pay a premium for feedstock that meets lower carbon benchmarks. We envision the SAF production industry will adopt similar plans to acquire lower carbon feedstock to maximize value and carbon intensity.

Again, thank you for this legislation. If passed, SF 1312 will have an impact on air travel by reducing carbon emissions and criteria air pollution and potentially improve impacts from agriculture. Gevo hopes you will keep this important bill moving by passing it forward. Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KH' followed by a stylized flourish.

Kent Hartwig  
Director of State Government Affairs



Gevo, Inc.