



April 24, 2021

Senate and House Omnibus Agriculture Finance Conference Committee Members  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: SF958 Omnibus Agriculture Finance Bill**

Dear members of the Conference Committee,

The Minnesota Soybean Growers Association represents the interests of our state's nearly 28,000 soybean farmers. Established in 1962, MSGA is also the first state affiliate of the American Soybean Association. We would like to thank members of the House and Senate for advocating and supporting Minnesota's agriculture community.

I am writing today on behalf of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association (MSGA) to express our support and opposition to several provisions contained in SF958 the Omnibus Agriculture Finance Conference Committee.

Change Items MSGA supports in the bill include:

- \$30.7 million (*House*) \$40 million Broadband and \$80 million from federal funds if available (*Senate*)
- \$4.0 million (*House*) \$7.0 million (*Senate*) for BioFuels infrastructure grants
- \$100,000 (*Senate*) \$94,000 (*House*) to Northern Crops Institute
- AGRI \$30.5 million (*Senate*) \$31.2 million (*House*)
- AGREETT \$18.6 million (*House/Senate*)
- \$900,000 noxious weed program (*House*)
- \$200,000 farm safety grants (*Senate/House*)
- \$40,000 farm mental health advocates (*House*)
- \$100,000 rural mental health outreach (*Senate/House*)

Change items MSGA opposes in the bill include

- Requiring additional labeling of neonicotinoid treated seed (*House*)
- Increasing fees on agriculture pesticides from .55% to .9% (*House*)
- \$500,000 Climate Smart program – carbon trading program (*House*)

Thank you for your time and your consideration of our views. We welcome and look forward to working with all conferees on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Jamie Beyer  
President, Minnesota Soybean Growers Association

