



Chair Samantha Vang
House Agriculture Finance and Policy
545 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Vang and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation's nearly 30,000 farm and ranch family members, I would like to thank the committee for the diligent work you have put in this legislative session and appreciate the opportunity to submit written comments regarding Representative Cha's HF2718.

Through policy developed during our grassroots process in November, our membership clearly stated a grain indemnity fund should not be funded through a fee-based appropriation. HF2718 as written only delegates \$5 million from the general fund. The bill also includes a provision allowing for the Commissioner of Agriculture to create up to a 0.2 percent fee on the price of grain to be paid into the fund, by the farmer once the fund falls below a \$9 million threshold. MFBF requests a general fund appropriation of at least \$9 million, with a preference that the account be funded at \$15 million.

The \$9 million threshold component of the legislation heightens the importance of giving producers the ability to voluntarily choose to participate in this prospective program.

While the bill currently proposes an opt-out provision functioned through a refund process where farmers must pay into the program first and then choose to not participate. We would prefer to see a process that allows a farmer to choose to participate before paying into the fund. Our members believe giving farmers the choice of participation up front makes this stronger legislation.

Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation appreciates the opportunity to provide written comments to the committee, and I am available for any questions and further discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Glessing', written in a cursive style.

Dan Glessing
President