



100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
Saint Paul, MN 55114
www.100percentmn.org

April 5, 2022

Chair Sundin and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for numerous provisions within House File 4366, as amended by HF4366DE1.

Minnesota is changing. As a population, we're aging. We're becoming more racially diverse. Our climate is changing, becoming warmer and wetter. And our economy is changing too. New clean energy industries are emerging and legacy industries, like agriculture, are innovating. This omnibus bill doesn't shy away from these changes, it helps us chart a future-oriented path toward a better, more equitable, thriving Minnesota. Four kinds of investments stand out:

First, the bill invests in **healthy soil practices** by establishing and funding a program to promote soil health practices that mitigate climate change impacts, improve water quality, and provide related public benefits.

- Healthy Soil = \$6.725m on 5.26-5.28; 34.10-34.28

We encourage the committee to go further and match the \$27 million Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan have proposed for healthy soil programs in their Agriculture and Environment & Natural Resources budgets.

Second, the bill supports several **business development** programs that would help create a sustainable, multigenerational, multiracial ecosystem of farming families in Minnesota. These include:

- Farm Down Payment Assistance Grants = \$3m on 24.11-24.15
- Grants & Technical Assistance for Emerging Farmers = \$2.6m on 22.14-22.21
- Urban Farming Youth Education and Community Development = \$1m on 14.5-14.10
- Farm Business Management Tuition Credit = \$300k on 13.22-13.31
- Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Infrastructure = \$141k / \$56k on 23.26-23.30
- Creation of a Cooperative Grant Program = 28.9-29.2

Third, the bill invests in **market development** through three key programs that would support both existing and emerging farmers in Minnesota.

- Cover Crop Development Grants = \$9m on 4.26-5.25
- Farm-to-Schools & Child Care Providers = \$1.6m on 13.32-14.4
- Good Food Access Program = \$1m on 4.11-4.13

The committee could go further by including Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan's proposal to include \$1 million for grants to start-up, modernize, or expand local food retailing.

Fourth, the bill builds up Minnesota's existing capacity to do **nation-leading research** into commercially viable, winter-hardy annual, and perennial crops.

- Forever Green = \$6.5m on 4.11-4.25
- Heritage Oilseed Research = \$2m on 24.16-24.28

Thank you for your work this year to improve Minnesota's agricultural systems. This bill's investments would create more family farms, protect Minnesota's land, sequester more carbon, and deliver more healthy food to Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Conry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
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