



March 15, 2021

Chair Mike Sundin
House Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy
417 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: H.F. 1524 (Sundin) – Agriculture Finance Bill

Dear Chair Sundin and Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) appreciates the opportunity to share written testimony on behalf of our nearly 30,000 members to highlight MFBF's support for specific provisions included in H.F. 1524. Based on MFBF policy, set by our grassroots membership across all of the state's 87 counties, MFBF specifically wants to identify support for the following provisions included in H.F. 1524:

- Appropriations for the wolf and elk depredation accounts;
- Additional funding for meat and poultry inspection services;
- Continuation of the Dairy Development and Profitability Enhancement program;
- Funding for mental health outreach and support for farmers, ranchers and rural communities;
- Support for beginning farmers;
- Continued investment into the Agriculture Research, Education, Extension and Technology Transfer program (AGREETT) and Agriculture Growth, Research and Innovation program (AGRI);
- Funding for Minnesota's county fairs to preserve and promote Minnesota agriculture;
- Grants to facilitate the start-up, modernization or expansion of meat, poultry, egg and milk processing facilities in Minnesota;
- Continued financial support for the Minnesota Agricultural Education and Leadership Council;
- Funding for biofuels infrastructure; and
- Investment for broadband infrastructure in Minnesota.

MFBF appreciates the investment the committee is considering for the future of agriculture in Minnesota. We look forward to continuing to work with the Chair and members of this committee as this bill moves forward. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Minnesota Farm Bureau staff with questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin Paap
President

Physical Address: 3080 Eagandale Place, Eagan, MN 55121-2118 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 64370, St. Paul,

MN 55164-0370

Phone: 651.768.2100 Fax: 651.768.2159 Email: info@fbmn.org www.fbmn.org