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March 19, 2021

Chair Leon Lillie
House Legacy Finance Committee
509 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Lillie and members of the committee:

On behalf of Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU), I write to express support for Representative Frederick's bill to support Minnesota's county fairs (H.F. 913). This bill would allow county agricultural societies to enhance arts access and education, and preserve and promote our state's history and cultural heritage.

MFU is a grassroots organization that has represented Minnesota's family farmers, ranchers and rural communities since 1918. Minnesota's county fairs help cultivate strong rural communities by promoting each region's unique history and culture. For rural families, the county fair is an important tradition that allows one to connect with neighbors, share stories, celebrate successes, and build community.

Following the isolation necessitated by COVID-19, it will be all the more important that county fairs are put back on a firm financial footing. We need them now more than ever.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact our Government Relations Director, Stu Lourey, at stu@mfu.org or (320) 232-2047 (C). Thank you for considering the needs and perspectives of Minnesota's farm families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Wertish". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" and "W".

Gary Wertish
President, Minnesota Farmers Union

Cc: Representative Luke Frederick