



LEWISTON OFFICE
180 East Main St, Box 130
Lewiston, MN 55952
507-523-3366

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE
821 East 35th St, #200
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-722-6377

MONTEVIDEO OFFICE
117 South 1st St
Montevideo, MN 56265
320-269-2105

February 27, 2023

Chair Vang and Members of the House Agriculture Committee,

On behalf of Land Stewardship Project's (LSP) 4,500 member households, I write in strong support of Rep Klevorn's bill HF 1492 to continue funding the important work of the Forever Green Initiative at the University of Minnesota and Rep Brand's bill HF 1645 that represents a significant investment in making Minnesota a national leader in developing and successfully scaling up crops such as Kernza, Winter Camelina and other perennial and winter annual crops. These crops allow farmers to diversify their rotations and income streams all while improving water quality, soil health, habitat and climate resilience.

HF 1492 (Klevorn) provides much needed funding for the University of Minnesota's Forever Green Initiative crop research and development to continue the program's critical work of bringing the next generation of crops from the lab to the field. HF1645 (Brand) invests in the burgeoning processing and small businesses that are poised to increase the acreage of perennial and regenerative crops being grown in Minnesota. These investments would support continuous-living-cover oriented businesses which are led largely by young, BIPOC and new and emerging farmers/entrepreneurs. Public investment now will spur further innovation and private investment, creating new economic and community development opportunities for our state while also protecting soil, water, biodiversity, and climate.

Lastly, I write in support of HF 1316 (Pursell) to help more farmers across our state scale up their adoption of soil health practices and build soil organic matter, reduce erosion, and clean our water. Ensuring that farmers have the technical assistance and equipment they need to successfully implement these practices is critical for building our state's climate resilience and protecting one of our greatest resources, our soil. However, we would like to see more attention given to no-till, establishing perennials, managed rotational grazing and transitioning to organic management practices to ensure funding is supporting the highest return of practices for our soils and our farmers.

I appreciate your consideration of these investments into our farmers, rural communities and State and hope that they earn your support.

Sincerely,

Laura Schreiber

Policy Organizer

Lschreiber@landstewardshipproject.org

The Land Stewardship Project (LSP) is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1982 to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, to promote sustainable agriculture, and to develop healthy communities. LSP is dedicated to creating transformational change in our food and farming system. LSP's work has a broad and deep impact, from new farmer training and local organizing, to federal policy and community based food systems development. At the core of all our work are the values of stewardship, justice, and democracy.