



Dear Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Soybean Growers Association, which represents the interests of our members and Minnesota's nearly 26,000 soybean farmers, wishes to express our full support for House File 2665 to add crude soybean oil as a qualifying specialty agricultural product for the purposes of special farm product permits.

Crude soybean oil plays a crucial role in food-grade soybean oil processing, along with producing biofuels, especially in the creation of biodiesel, which accounts for about 30% of domestic soybean oil consumption. This homegrown fuel supports nearly 5,400 jobs in our state and adds nearly \$1.7 billion toward Minnesota's GDP while cutting carbon and supporting energy independence. A recent assessment from the United Soybean Board found a 22% decrease in the carbon footprint associated with U.S. production of crude soybean oil.

At the farm level, biodiesel adds about \$1 to the value of soybeans in Minnesota, raising demand by 13%. In a challenging farm economy, growing demand and building existing markets are imperative toward keeping Minnesota farmers on the land for generations to come. Minnesota's economy depends on a healthy farm economy, and the Legislature can ease transportation burdens while also continuing to lead in the biofuels space – as it has for more than 20 years – by supporting this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Darin Johnson

President, Minnesota Soybean Growers Association