

March 6, 2026

Co-Chair Paul Anderson  
Co-Chair Rick Hansen  
House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee  
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard., Room G3  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Agriculture Support for Farmer-Lender Mediation

Dear Co-Chair Anderson, Co-Chair Hansen, and members of the committee:

We write to share our support for extending and providing additional support for Minnesota's Farmer-Lender Mediation (FLM) program. We believe a clean, five-year reauthorization of the program will provide certainty for program staff, lenders, and farmers who rely on the program.

Farmers manage significant uncertainty—markets, the weather, and the cost of inputs are all well-beyond their control. And at present, many are facing financial challenges. As evidence of this, there were nearly 700 new requests for mediation in the first four months of this fiscal year, up from 524 in 2025 and more than double the requests in 2024.

Acting now to extend the FLM program is one way state lawmakers can take to provide certainty. Furthermore, additional support for the program would help staff manage the increase in requests for mediation and continue to streamline the program.

We support Farmer-Lender Mediation and are grateful for your work to see it continue going forward. We hope this extension earns your support.

Sincerely,

Minnesota Farmers Union  
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation  
Land Stewardship Project  
Minnesota Corn Growers Association  
Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers  
Minnesota Milk Producers Association  
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association  
Minnesota State Cattleman's Association  
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association  
The Cooperative Network

March 6, 2026

Co-Chair Paul Anderson and Co-Chair Rick Hansen  
Minnesota House Committee on Agriculture Finance & Policy

Dear Chairs Anderson and Hansen and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the two Farm Credit associations serving Minnesota farmers, AgCountry Farm Credit Services (Ag Country), and Compeer Financial (Compeer), we want to express our support for HF 3692 that would extend the Farmer-Lender Mediation Act until June 30, 2032.

Compeer and AgCountry are part of the Farm Credit System, created by an Act of Congress over 100 years ago, with a mission exclusively dedicated to supporting agriculture and rural communities. As member-owned cooperatives, Compeer and Ag Country are owned by those we serve, including over 33,000 customer-owners in Minnesota.

From the perspective of both our organizations, the Farmer-Lender Mediation (FLM) Program in Minnesota has been a good model to help facilitate productive outcomes for farmers experiencing financial difficulties. Given some of the current economic challenges facing agriculture and the benefits FLM has provided to both farmers and lenders, we support the continuation of the program, and if necessary, additional resources to hire FLM mediators.

Sincerely,

Perry Aasness  
Vice President Legislative Affairs  
Compeer Financial

Andy Martin  
Vice President of Legislative &  
Public Affairs  
Ag Country Farm Credit Services