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March 9, 2026

Co-Chair Mary Franson
Co-Chair Fue Lee
House Capital Investment Committee
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard., Room G23
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: MFU support for University of Minnesota St. Paul bonding request

Dear Co-Chair Franson, Co-Chair Lee, and members of the committee:

On behalf of Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU), I write to share our support for the University of Minnesota's bonding request for its St. Paul campus. This funding would enable UMN to update its Campus Center, keeping the university strong by enhancing learning and community spaces.

MFU is a grassroots organization that has represented Minnesota's family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities since 1918. One of our top legislative priorities is investing in the next generation of farmers. The University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus helps ensure Minnesota is leading in agriculture, food studies, veterinary medicine, and environmental science education, building a strong future for Minnesota agriculture. Our entire agricultural economy benefits from a strong, public land-grant university that can attract and retain students who are passionate about careers in these fields.

An improved Campus Center will make UMN more attractive and nationally competitive, in addition to boosting student success. This funding supports an institution whose work benefits agriculture of all types and in every corner of the state.

I appreciate your consideration and hope the University earns your support. 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 your work on behalf of farmers and all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Wertish". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "G" and a long, sweeping tail.

Gary Wertish
President, Minnesota Farmers Union