

April 25, 2018

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Minnesota AgriGrowth Council, we are writing to express our support for HF4437, a bill to constitutionally rededicate sales tax revenue from motor vehicle repair and replacement parts toward funding for roads and bridges.

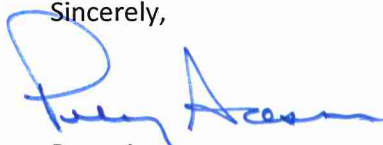
As you may know, AgriGrowth is a nonprofit, nonpartisan member organization whose mission it is to advocate for Minnesota's ag and food sector. AgriGrowth's industry-wide perspective is essential in a state where the agriculture and food sector are the second largest economic driver. A reliable stream of revenue for road and bridge construction and repair is critical to the competitiveness of Minnesota's ag and food sector. While we thank the legislature for the additional transportation funding in 2017, we believe a complete dedication of this tax revenue is necessary to address Minnesota's aging infrastructure.

Minnesota farmers, agribusiness and food companies are great at growing and processing ag products and rely on a transportation system to get inputs to the farm and products to the marketplace. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, grains and other food products grown and processed in Minnesota are by far the largest commodities by weight that hit Minnesota roads. An influx of state investment for our roads and bridges will help Minnesota's food and ag sectors to remain competitive with the rest of the country.

While we understand the hesitation to constitutionally rededicate general fund revenues, AgriGrowth will always support efforts to increase funding for that state's infrastructure. It is an issue that transcends industries and ultimately helps both families and business.

AgriGrowth and its members urge you to support this important piece of legislation. As always, we standby to be a resource for you on this and other matters.

Sincerely,



Perry Aasness  
Executive Director  
Minnesota AgriGrowth Council