



April 7, 2021

Chair Mike Sundin
House Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy
417 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: H.F. 1524 (Sundin) – Omnibus Agriculture Bill

Dear Chair Sundin and Members of the Committees,

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) appreciates the opportunity to share written testimony on behalf of our nearly 30,000 members to highlight the provisions within H.F. 1524 that our membership supports. Although we have had the opportunity to express support for these provisions throughout committee hearings this session, MFBF wanted to highlight the language included within the omnibus package:

- Appropriations for the wolf and elk depredation accounts
- Additional funding for meat and poultry inspection services
- Support for international marketing opportunities for Minnesota agriculture
- Continuation of the Dairy Development and Profitability Enhancement program
- Further support for rural mental health resources
- Support for beginning farmers
- Strong investment into the Agriculture Research, Education, Extension and Technology Transfer program (AGREETT)
- Continued funding the Agriculture Growth, Research and Innovation program (AGRI), including provisions to support:
 - County Fairs
 - Biofuels
 - Meat, poultry, egg and milk processing facilities
- Establishment of a biofuels infrastructure financial assistance program and creation of an advisory council
- Continued financial support for the Minnesota Agricultural Education and Leadership Council
- Creation of grants for agricultural cooperatives
- Continued funding for the Board of Animal Health

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While we support many provisions included in H.F. 1524, as stated above, MFBF remains concerned about the inclusion of language that would require labeling of agricultural products that go beyond federal law and regulations.

MFBF appreciates the investment the committee put forward for the future of agriculture in Minnesota. If there are any questions from members of the committee, please do not hesitate to reach out to Amber Glaeser, Director of Public Policy at amber.glaeser@fbmn.org or Josie Lonetti, Associate Director of Public Policy at josie.lonetti@fbmn.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Paap". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "K".

Kevin Paap
President
Minnesota Farm Bureau