



March 22, 2023

Chair Patty Acomb
House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee
593 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Acomb, Republican Lead Swedzinki and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA), I would like to submit the following written testimony in support of HF 1853. MCGA represents nearly 7,000 family farm members from around the state and represents all 24,000 Minnesota corn farmers who support research and education efforts through their participation in the corn checkoff program. MCGA appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House File 1853 that would provide funding for a weather resilience program in the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

In 2021, the Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council (MCR&PC) provided funding to the University of Minnesota Extension Service to offer research-based education and outreach to help Minnesota's corn growers and the agricultural sector respond to weather trends and build resilient farming operations. There is an interest by farmers in understanding trends in evapotranspiration, wind speeds and directions that could impact crop protection application decisions to minimize nutrient loss, and strategies for water management. MCR&PC funding helped to support an Extension educator to provide science-based information to help farmers understand how changes in climate and weather will affect their operations, both year-over-year and in the long-term.

HF 1843 proposes to build on this initial work for an expanded Extension Weather Ready Program to increase the ability of Extension to provide education, research and technical assistance to the agricultural sector along with land and resource managers and Minnesota communities. MCGA has appreciated our partnership with University of Minnesota Extension to help develop these resources and assistance for Minnesota corn growers and support from the Legislature could provide this information to a greater range of stakeholders and community members.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact MCGA's Senior Public Policy Director Amanda Bilek at 952-460-3604 or at abilek@mncorn.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Syverson".

Richard Syverson
President
Minnesota Corn Growers Association



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March 22, 2023

Chair Patty Acomb
Climate and Energy Finance and Policy
593 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Acomb and members of the committee:

On behalf of Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU), I write to share our support for Chair Acomb's bill to provide the University of Minnesota Extension (Extension) with funding to help farmers and others prepare for and adapt to extreme weather (HF1853). This is an investment in ensuring that good data is used to inform on-the-ground decision-making and it will help make our members more resilient going forward.

MFU is a grassroots organization that has represented Minnesota's family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities since 1918. This past summer, Minnesota faced the second year of severe drought conditions that stunted the growth of conventional and specialty crops, dried up water sources for livestock and deteriorated pasture used for haying and grazing. Despite recent snow events, 60 percent of the state is still abnormally dry.

Farmers are coming up with creative ways to remain resilient, while actively working to mitigate and even reverse the worst effects of climate change. Extension is a good partner in this work and helps farmers make better-informed management decisions for their farm. Better and more accessible information about extreme weather will help inform our members' decisions about installing drain tile, planning crop rotations, or choosing traits to breed for in livestock.

Farmers depend on the weather, and the science informing projected trends is changing quickly. Funding for Extension to help ensure this data is used to inform management practices will help producers remain resilient to future disruptions like this summer's drought. We thank Chair Acomb for her work on this issue and appreciate the committee's consideration. If you have any questions, please contact our Government Relations Director, Stu Lourey, at stu@mfu.org or (320) 232-2047. Thank you for considering the needs and perspectives of Minnesota's farm families.

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 "W".

Gary Wertish
President, Minnesota Farmers Union

March 21, 2023

Representative Patty Acomb, Committee Chair
House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee

Subject: Support for HF1853

Dear Chair Acomb and Members of the Committee,

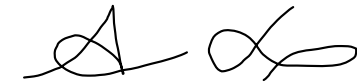
I strongly support HF1853 to fund the University of Minnesota Extension to expand their reach to educate end users around their climate risks and how to use data and evidence to better prepare for and adapt to extreme weather across the State of Minnesota.

As architecture and engineering (A&E) professionals, my colleagues and I have seen the impacts of extreme weather accelerating in Minnesota. Our clients have been living this new reality with stormwater management systems stretched beyond capacity due to heavy rainfall, mechanical systems struggling to keep up with extreme heat days and increased humidity, and building materials stressed by wider swings from warm to cold days in the winter.

Yet the A&E industry still relies on historical weather data for performance analysis, system sizing, and other design decisions, which was made clear in a [joint research study](#) between HGA and the Extension's University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership. This major gap between A&E practice and climate science could put buildings and infrastructure at risk.

This bill would allow UMN Extension to add critical climate capacity across the state and serve as a leader in seeking solutions and providing education and training to help close this gap, which could set a new precedent for bringing climate science and the A&E industry together to create a resilient built environment.

Sincerely,



Ariane Laxo

Director of Sustainability

alaxo@hga.com | 612-758-4269

Reference:

Climate Forward? How architects and engineers are(n't) using climate projections to inform design
<https://climate.umn.edu/news/new-climate-forward-report-advocates-use-climate-projection-data-architecture-and-engineering>



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Representative Patty Acomb
593 State Office Building
House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 22, 2023

Dear Chair Acomb and Members of the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share support for HF1853, which would fund the University of Minnesota Extension Service Weather Ready program to enhance the capacity for Minnesota's working lands and communities to respond to climate change impacts. This program would build critical scientific capacity and establish a strong foundation for extension and outreach services to support climate preparedness and adaptation across the state.

Science affirms that nature is a significant tool to be leveraged to meet the state's carbon sequestration goals and build community resiliency. This program would provide outreach and technical assistance to farmers and private landowners that support their operations as working lands face more frequent and extreme weather events such as droughts and floods. This would be the first program of its kind nationally and will position the state to leverage federal funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and other federal programs.

As this committee considers investments that can address climate change and make Minnesota more resilient, we encourage you to include the investment in this program alongside a suite of other natural climate solutions.

Thank you for considering HF1853 and your work on behalf of Minnesotans and nature.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Pinkalla
Government Relations Director
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota

Molly Jansen
Government Relations Specialist
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota