



February 15, 2022

Chair Mike Sundin

House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Sundin and members of the committee:

On behalf of Land Stewardship Project's (LSP) 4,500 member households, I write in strong support of two bills before you that represent a significant investment in making Minnesota a national leader in developing and successfully scaling up crops such as Kernza, Winter Camelina and other perennial and winter annual crops. These crops allow farmers to diversify their rotations and income streams all while improving water quality, soil health, habitat and climate resilience.

HF3625 (Klevorn) provides much needed funding for the University of Minnesota's Forever Green Initiative crop research and development to continue the program's important work of bringing the next generation of crops from the lab to the field. HF2720 (Lippert) invests in the burgeoning processing and small businesses that are poised to increase the acreage of perennial and regenerative crops being grown and invests in these continuous-living-cover oriented businesses which are led largely by young, BIPOC and new and emerging farmers/entrepreneurs. Public investment now will spur further innovation and private investment, creating new economic and community development opportunities for our state while also protecting soil, water, biodiversity, and climate.

I appreciate your consideration of these investments into our farmers, rural communities and State and hope that they earn your support.

Sincerely,

Laura Schreiber

Policy Organizer

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The Land Stewardship Project (LSP) is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1982 to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, to promote sustainable agriculture, and to develop healthy communities. LSP is dedicated to creating transformational change in our food and farming system. LSP's work has a broad and deep impact, from new farmer training and local organizing, to federal policy and community based food systems development. At the core of all our work are the values of stewardship, justice, and democracy.