



**CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA**

April 5, 2022

Dear Chair Sundin, Vice Chair Vang, and Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee,

We write to you as members of Minnesota's conservation community to express our support for HF 4366, the committee's supplemental budget proposal. As an organization, our mission is to solve the state's most important conservation problems, and advocating for the health of our communities, soil, water, and economy is vital to this achieving this goal.

We thank the committee for your work this session advocating for farmers and a strong agriculture economy. With the support of the state's budget surplus and in line with Governor Walz's budget requests, we believe this, and subsequent iterations of the house agriculture budget, can make an impact on farmers' lives and will further conservation efforts for a resilient agriculture system.

Though there are many aspects included in this budget we hope to see in the final package, including support for the increased use of biofuels not yet incorporated, I specifically want to highlight support for these items:

- A Local and Regional Food System Report
- The Soil Healthy Grant Program
- Perennial Cover Commercialization
- Cooperative Development Grants
- Hunger Relief
- Support for Emerging and Beginning Farmers

The above-mentioned issues will strengthen the state's conservation, food system, and climate resiliency efforts. We can improve our agriculture economy's long-term profitability by utilizing soil health management systems to increase drought resilience, capture and store water, and maintain soil productivity. These inclusions will also increase innovation, develop new markets, invest in our farmers, and feed Minnesotans.

Our local communities and environment will greatly benefit from this supplemental budget proposal, and we look forward to supporting your continued efforts.

Sincerely,
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