

March 1, 2021

Representative Mike Sundin
House Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee Chair
417 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Sundin and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota AgriGrowth Council (AgriGrowth), we are writing to express our support for House File 1631 chief authored by Representative Todd Lippert.

The Minnesota AgriGrowth Council (AgriGrowth) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan member organization representing the broad cross section of the agriculture and food systems industry, including agribusinesses, production agriculture, processors, food manufacturers, and numerous other entities throughout the food-supply chain.

AgriGrowth greatly appreciates the unique role Greater Mankato Growth and GreenSeam provides to our agri-food industry, to the region it serves, and to our state in general. GreenSeam has been instrumental in providing that voice that links agriculture and agri-food to economic development and to greater Minnesota (particularly in the southern Minnesota region). Moreover, GreenSeam has been a key partner with AgriGrowth and others in coordinating several timely analyses.

In 2020 alone, these included:

- The Economic Contributions of Agriculture and Forestry to the State of Minnesota
<http://www.decision-innovation.com/economic-impact/economic-contribution-study-of-minnesota-agriculture-and-forestry/>
- A survey on the Impact of COVID-19 on Minnesota Food and Ag Supply chain featured at [Impacts of COVID-19 on Minnesota's Food and Ag Supply Chain \(Webinar Wednesday\) - AURI](#)

Greater Mankato Growth and GreenSeam participate actively in a variety of organizations and initiatives around the state where they work to bridge the gaps in understanding and identify solutions for robust economic development in our state's second largest economic driver – agriculture and food.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments in support of House File 1631 and we thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



Tamara A. Nelsen
Executive Director