



5.5.2022

To: Conference Committee on Agriculture, Housing and Broadband

Thank you for letting me provide written testimony as you work to bring the House and Senate Agriculture, Housing and Broadband bills together.

The Agriculture Utilization Research Institute (AURI) had the opportunity to present in both the House and Senate Agriculture Committee's this year to talk about current needs as well as needs for the future. Of the five requests AURI had this session, three are still under consideration:

- \$2 million to purchase property, construct and equip offices and laboratories in Crookston and Waseca. (One time money) This would allow AURI to bring its coproduct lab in Waseca back into one building and would reduce our annual rental fees by \$80,000. We outgrew our lab in Waseca and have been operating from two locations which is difficult from a safety and efficiency standpoint.
- \$1 million for equipment upgrades, replacement, and installation at laboratories in Crookston, Waseca, and Marshall. (One time money) While AURI annually budgets for equipment purchases, over time we have fallen behind on acquiring some essential equipment to keep our laboratories current.
- \$200,000 per year added to our base appropriation to maintain the current level of service.

AURI values the relationship we have with the state and continues to provide a return on investment of nearly \$80 to \$1, through jobs created or retained, additional investment delivered and helping entrepreneurs and small businesses bring their innovative ideas to reality, while using commodities being produced by Minnesota farmers.

You have seen these requests also highlighted in priorities brought forward by:

- Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation
- Minnesota Soybean Growers
- Minnesota Corn Growers
- Minnesota AgriGrowth Council
- Minnesota Farmers Union
- Minnesota Wheat Growers
- Compeer Financial

Thank you for your thoughtful considerations of these requests.

Thank you for your service and for your support of AURI.

Respectfully,

Dan Skogen Director of Government and Industry Relations AURI

Foster long-term economic benefit for Minnesota through value-added agricultural products.

auri.org

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