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February 24, 2021

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

Vice Chair Samantha Vang
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Sundin, Vice Chair Vang, and members of the committee:

On behalf of Minnesota Famers Union (MFU), I write to share my strong support for Representative Frederick's bill to expand the use of higher-octane, cleaner-burning biofuels through increasing the state's biofuel standard from 10 to 15 percent (HF 1433). This next step for Minnesota's biofuels industry will help strengthen an important market for many family farmers and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

MFU is a grassroots organization that has represented Minnesota's family farmers, ranchers and rural communities since 1918. Many of our family farmer members rely on their local biofuels plant as a value-added market for their farm products. Others use the co-products from ethanol production to feed their livestock, or look to their local plant as a source of employment. Finally, many see displacing more fossil fuels with cleaner-burning biofuels—and reducing emissions from our transportation sector—as one way they can contribute to tackling climate change.

Minnesota was the first state in the nation to set a higher biofuel standard. Increasing our standard from 10 to 15 percent will continue that leadership and provide an important market for many farmers.

I appreciate your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact our Government Relations Director, Stu Lourey, at stu@mfu.org or (320) 232-2047 (C). Thank you for your work on behalf of farmers and all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Wertish". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Wertish
President, Minnesota Farmers Union

CC: Representative Luke Frederick