



February 13, 2023

Rep. Samantha Vang (DFL) District: 38B
Chair of the Minnesota House Agriculture Committee on Finance and Policy
545 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Samantha Vang, Chair of the Minnesota House Agriculture Committee on Finance and Policy and committee members:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support on behalf of the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI) in support of HF1034.

AURI is a non-profit corporation funded primarily by the State of Minnesota with a mission to foster long-term economic benefit for Minnesota through value-added agricultural products. AURI accomplishes this by developing new uses for agricultural products through science and technology, using a deliberate approach on multiple levels, including focused basic research, public information dissemination, building strategic collaborations among partners and by placing a strong emphasis on applications with near-term implementation plans.

For more than three decades, AURI has helped cooperatives with developing products, improving processing, finding raw materials and converting byproducts to income streams. AURI's Cooperative Development Center helps start-ups or existing cooperatives understand the feasibility of starting a new operation or creating an enterprise.

HF1034 would be a valuable tool to leverage state dollars with federal dollars, such as the USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grant program, to move cooperative agricultural ventures forward, strengthening the agricultural ecosystem in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon M. Schlecht', written over a horizontal line.

Shannon M. Schlecht
Executive Director