

March 3, 2021

House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee
Chair Mike Sundin
417 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd
St. Paul, MN 551155

Dear Members of the Committee,

The undersigned organizations represent a significant portion of Minnesota's agriculture sector and thousands of farms and ag-related businesses and strongly support agriculture research at the University of Minnesota. Our organizations support ongoing funding to the Agricultural Research, Education, Extension and Technology Transfer (AGREETT) Program.

The purpose of AGREETT is to support agricultural productivity growth through research, education and extension through long-term base funding. Since 2015, when the AGREETT program was established by the state legislature significant progress has been made towards restoring and expanding capacity and research capabilities at the University of Minnesota in the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS), Extension and the College of Veterinary Medicine. The funding has led to the hiring of 20 faculty positions, 11 extension educators and a number of needed infrastructure upgrades in the areas of crop and livestock productivity, soil fertility, water quality and pest resistance.

A multi-sector, interdisciplinary advisory panel provides strategic direction for the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to prioritize available funds to meet research, extension and infrastructure needs. The structure of AGREETT has worked effectively and future investment could focus in the areas of: crop and livestock productivity; microbial science; advancing soil fertility and water quality; agricultural technology and decisions-making; nutrient recycling and management; agro-ecological innovation; and technology aimed at managing pest resistance and climate change.

Our organizations are excited by the significant progress made through AGREETT over the last five years and we urge your support in continuing the base funding for AGREETT to ensure progress will continue into the future. Thank you for your support of Minnesota agriculture.

Sincerely,

Chicken & Egg Association of Minnesota

Minnesota Milk Producers Association

Minnesota AgriGrowth Council

Minnesota Pork Producers Association

Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers

Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association

Minnesota Corn Growers Association

Minnesota Turkey Growers Association

Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation

Minnesota Farmers Union