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March 16, 2021

Chair Frank Hornstein
House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hornstein and members of the committee:

On behalf of Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU), I write to share my support for Representative Huot's bill to create an agricultural special license plate to support the Minnesota FFA Foundation and 4-H (H.F. 1675). This will help educate the next generation of farmers and agricultural professionals and celebrate a foundational piece of Minnesota's economy and culture.

MFU is a grassroots organization that has represented Minnesota's family farmers, ranchers and rural communities since 1918. Our family farmer members care deeply about agriculture education, because they believe that the sustainability of their farms and communities depends on the next generation being ready and able to take the reins. With the average age of farmers in Minnesota approaching 60, educating and inspiring the next generation is top of mind.

Many of our members would be proud to support and celebrate FFA and 4-H by purchasing a special license plate. And seeing those plates while driving around the countryside would make me hopeful for the future of our rural communities.

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 style with a large, looped "G" and "W".

Gary Wertish
President, Minnesota Farmers Union

CC: Representative John Huot