



16 North Carroll Street, Suite 900, Madison, WI 53703-2721  
608.258.4400 fax 608.258.4407

145 University Avenue, W., Suite 450, St. Paul, MN 55103-2044  
651.228.0213 fax 651.228.1184

[www.cooperativenetwork.coop](http://www.cooperativenetwork.coop)

March 29, 2019

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives  
c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

Cooperative Network is one of the largest associations of its kind in the country and serves more than 250 member-cooperatives. Our members are owned by millions of residents throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin and include member-owned farm supply, dairy marketing, livestock marketing, financial, health care, mutual insurance, processing, electric utility, housing, food, and worker-owned cooperatives, among others.

Cooperative Network's membership includes cooperatives that rely on members of the immigrant workforce community who would benefit from passage of House File 1500, which would allow undocumented individuals to operate vehicles legally on Minnesota's roadways. This legislation includes critical requirements that these individuals complete driver's license training, testing and general license requirements, as well as securing proper and adequate insurance.

Agriculture is Minnesota's largest basic industry, with about one-fourth of the state's labor force employed in agriculture or agriculture-related industries. Cooperatives are integral to Minnesota's agricultural economy, as well as the state's economy. Our member cooperatives deliver commodities, fuel and inputs to our member-owners throughout the state, as well as to markets throughout country and world.

Cooperative Network's member-driven resolutions support comprehensive federal immigration legislation that will provide a pathway to improving the stability of a year-round labor workforce in rural America. Absent of any immigration reform legislation passing on the federal level, House File 1500 is a state-level answer that will assist our cooperative members and their workers to sustain and grow the agricultural production and processing footprint in Minnesota.

On behalf of our cooperative members, we respectfully request your support of House File 1500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Smith".

Dan Smith  
President & CEO

April 5, 2018

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

Minnesota businesses value the contributions of immigrants to our state. Their roles as workers, entrepreneurs and consumers are important to the development and growth of our economy and our communities.

Our organizations support HF 1500 (Representative Winkler) for workforce and public safety reasons:

- Our labor participation rate is second highest nationally. Demographics indicate that as our population continues to age and as our economy grows, Minnesota will not have the numbers of people needed to meet labor market needs. Immigrants are a key to this challenge.
- In addition, Minnesota employers rely on immigrant workers to serve their customers. To do this safely, workers should complete drivers' license training, testing and licensing requirements, including securing insurance. We believe this will make roads safer for all drivers.

We appreciate the proposed amendments that address concerns regarding making the non-voting notation even more prominent on the license; the removal of non-discrimination provisions relating to the Minnesota Human Rights Act; and adjusting the term of the license from four years to two. These amendments improve the bill.

As we wait for a comprehensive solution to immigration on the federal level, we recognize that the state also has a role in certain state based issues. H.F 1500 addresses a state based public safety and employment concern by requiring immigrants to obtain Minnesota drivers' licenses.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,



cc: Majority Leader Winkler



## LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

LEWISTON OFFICE  
180 East Main St, Box 130  
Lewiston, MN 55952  
507-523-3366

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE  
821 East 35<sup>th</sup> St, #200  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
612-722-6377

MONTEVIDEO OFFICE  
117 South 1<sup>st</sup> St  
Montevideo, MN 56265  
320-269-2105

April 3, 2019

Members of the House of Representatives  
c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler,  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

As a farm and rural organization that works for vibrant rural communities and a sustainable and just farm and food system, we urge you to support HF 1500.

The Land Stewardship Project is dedicated to creating transformational change in our food and farming system and at the core of all our work are the values of stewardship, justice and democracy. These values lead us to strongly support this legislation.

We believe that everyone should have access to driving privileges by being able to apply and obtain a Minnesota Driver's License, regardless of their immigration status. We cannot have a just and sustainable farm and food system without equity for all families, including the many immigrants who live and work throughout rural and urban Minnesota. Currently, undocumented residents cannot obtain a driver's license, meaning the numerous undocumented residents and workers in our state are not being treated as essential part of our communities. Undocumented Minnesotans are crucial to our state and must not be pushed to and left in the margins.

Each person, no matter where they come from or what they look like, must have equal rights and privileges. We urge you to support House File 1500 and advance equity and safety in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Land Stewardship Project and Members of the LSP State Policy Steering Committee:

Amanda Babcock  
LSP State Policy Organizer

Kristi Pursell  
Farmer, Northfield

Paul Sobocinski  
Hog Farmer, Wabasso

Jim Falk  
Farmer, Murdock

Dori Eder  
Farmer, Minneapolis

Ted Winter  
Farmer, Fulda

Kathleen Mary Kiemen, SSND  
Roseville

Al Perish  
Retired Dairy Farmer, Browerville



March 19, 2019

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives  
c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Support of HF 1500, undocumented immigrant driver's licenses**

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

The Midwest Food Products Association supports HF 1500, which would allow undocumented immigrants to obtain a driver's license in Minnesota after proving their identify, passing appropriate driving tests, and securing vehicle insurance.

Many of our members' food production facilities are located in rural areas, small towns, and remote locations throughout Minnesota that struggle for access to employees and a stable workforce. Transportation to and from work, and showing up for work on time, is of critical importance to the overall success of food production and processing companies.

Minnesota is a leader in meat products, grains, and vegetables for processing and offers many related quality jobs in the food production industry. Our member companies want employees to have the opportunity to obtain a driver's license, and drive safely on Minnesota roads to and from their jobs.

We respectfully urge your support for HF 1500, because it will help make Minnesota roads and highways safer for all who use them, and it will allow the workforce our industry relies on to obtain a driver's license and secure jobs in our members' Greater Minnesota plants and facilities. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Nickolas C. George Jr.  
President, MWFPA





305 Roselawn Ave E • Suite 200 • St. Paul, MN 55117 - 2031  
Ph 651.639.1223 • Fx 651.639.0421 • [www.mfu.org](http://www.mfu.org)

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives  
c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

On behalf of Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU), I write to join a growing coalition of agriculture and business leaders in expressing support for HF1500.

MFU is a non-partisan, grassroots membership organization that has helped represent Minnesota's family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities since 1918. Our organization values the important role that immigrants play in our agricultural economy and community – as consumers, producers, and farm workers. We believe that allowing immigrants to earn a drivers' license would respect these contributions, improve public safety, and help farmers who rely on workers being able to travel to work.

In Minnesota and across the country, workforce continues to be a significant challenge for family farmers, with immigrants playing a key role in fulfilling the need for farm labor. Absent comprehensive immigration reform on the national level, this change would help address workforce challenges by making it easier for immigrants to safely and legally drive to and from farms across the state.

This change, which follows similar policies enacted in a dozen states, would also make our roadways safer by helping ensure that all drivers complete training, fulfill license requirements, and obtain insurance.

For these reasons, I encourage your support for HF1500. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact our Government Relations Director, Stu Lourey, at [stu@mfu.org](mailto:stu@mfu.org). Thank you for considering the perspective of family farmers and rural communities.

Sincerely,

Gary Wertish  
President, Minnesota Farmers Union



Members of the House of Representatives  
c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler,  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155

March 29, 2019

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives,

I am to write to express our strong support for HF1500, my name is Gustavo Rivera, I am 43 years old. I have lived in Minnesota since 1996. I am married and have Three Children who are United State Citizens. On April 4, 2012, I opened a small business of used vehicles in the city of St Paul. The reason I opened my business was to be able to help and support my community and individuals during the process of buying and selling vehicles. By speaking in their preferred language Spanish, customers will feel confident and safer.

On October 31, 2018, I was notified by the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) located on the second floor of Sears Store that dealers could no longer sell and transfer vehicle titles to people holding a Foreign Identification or Passport. 90% percent of my clients are from the Hispanic Immigrant Community. When I learned this, I knew that I had a serious problem, since we could no longer make sales to those who do not have a U.S. identification or passport.

I understand this law was made in 2002. It was not implemented until October 31, 2018. I do not understand why it took the DMV 16 years to begin to enforce the law that now prevents me from doing my job. For the past 7 years I have been able to sell and transfers vehicle titles to people who have foreign identification or foreign passport.

At this time my business is being negatively affected by this law. I can no longer sell vehicles to my previous customers if they do not have a proper state identification or passport. There for, I am asking you to support HF1500, so that I will be able to carry out my business and continue to support Minnesota's economy as it continues to grow.

We strongly urge the House of Representatives to pass HF1500, as it represents an important and responsible way to increase safety and security in Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Gustavo Rivera

Grises Investment LLC  
East Side Auto Sales LLC  
DBA Rivera Auto Sales  
Tel 651-245-2799

[www.riveraautosale.com](http://www.riveraautosale.com)

email [riveragust@gmail.com](mailto:riveragust@gmail.com)



## SUNRISE BANKS

April 2019

Dear Minnesota House of Representatives,

Sunrise Banks is a \$1 billion commercial bank located in the cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, focused on community development of the state's urban centers. The bank is privately owned by the Reiling family who reside in the community.

Over the past year, the bank has been working closely with the city of Minneapolis on crafting a bank-acceptable Municipal ID card; following a number of meetings and detailed consultations, Sunrise and the city arrived at an acceptable card-one that can be utilized in the provision of daily banking services.

Today, the bank supports the general concept introduced by Minnesota House File 1500 that will further assist all Minnesotans with other identification issues and problems, specifically relating to Driver's Licenses. Sunrise Banks stands-by to assist in the drafting and provide testimony as the bill makes its way through the legislature.

The bank's market and constituents are heavily people of color and immigrants, and the bank has structured its products and services to meet the very real and specific needs of this underserved population. As just one example, the bank is providing mortgages to people without social security numbers to assist them in purchasing homes. These mortgages, called ITIN's, are made to immigrants and we have originated and have retained dozens of these first-time homebuyer loans.

Thank you.

Richard Beeson  
Sunrise Banks  
EVP Government Relations and Corporate Development  
2525 Wabash  
Saint Paul, MN  
651-523-7830