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January 25, 2021

Chair Jamie Long
House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy
517 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Long and members of the committee:

On behalf of Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU), I write to share my support for the Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act (H.F. 164).

MFU is a grassroots organization that has represented Minnesota's family farmers, ranchers and rural communities since 1918. Family farmers, just like any other business owner, are always looking for ways to save money and improve their bottom line. For many, that's meant cost-effective investments in energy efficiency both in their home and farm operation.

Since 2007, the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) has been an important tool to help farmers make those investments. ECO will build on the success of CIP, helping farmers lower their energy bills and increase their use of renewable energy, all while retaining consumer choice and creating jobs in rural communities.

I am glad to add our voice to the broad coalition supporting this bipartisan next step for energy efficiency in Minnesota. 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 considering the needs and perspectives of Minnesota's farm families.

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 Zack Stephenson