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March 15, 2021

Chair Torrey Westrom  
Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Finance and Policy Committee  
95 University Avenue West  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Westrom and members of the committee:

On behalf of Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU), I write to share my strong support for Senator Goggin's bill to expand Farm to School and Early Care programming, building on successful work at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA). These programs help develop an important and reliable market for family farmers while helping young people learn about their local foodshed.

MFU is a grassroots organization that has represented Minnesota's family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities since 1918. Our family farmer members care about the Department's work on Farm to School and Early Care, because these initiatives stand to improve local markets for Minnesota-grown foods. This, in turn, helps farmers get a fair price for their products, all while increasing kids' access to healthful foods. That's why our members adopted a provision in support of Farm to School and Early Care through our grassroots policy development process.

I appreciate your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact our Government Relations Director, Stu Lourey, at [stu@mfu.org](mailto: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, flowing style.

Gary Wertish  
President, Minnesota Farmers Union

CC: Senator Mike Goggin