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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 our support for Senator Johnson's work to ensure adequate funding for the wolf and elk depredation account at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).

MFU is a grassroots organization that has represented Minnesota's family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities since 1918. For many of our members, adequately funding these accounts is a high priority, because they've suffered depredation. In the case of lost livestock, this takes a significant financial and often emotional toll on that farm family. This is particularly devastating for the many small producers who pasture their cattle – and for whom the death of even one animal is a significant loss.

I appreciate your consideration and hope these programs earn your support. 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, flowing style.

Gary Wertish
President, Minnesota Farmers Union

CC: Senator Mark Johnson