

February 23, 2021

Members of the Minnesota House and Senate:

We urge you to champion and prioritize House File 701 and Senate File 1113, a comprehensive soil health bill that provides all the resources Minnesota farmers need to scale up soil- and resiliency-building practices and achieve 100% Soil-Healthy Farming in Minnesota. By ensuring soil-healthy practices are profitable from day one through accessible and motivating grants and direct payments, we aim to achieve:

- 50% of Minnesota farmers to implement soil-healthy practices by 2030
- 100% of Minnesota farmers to implement soil-healthy practices by 2035
- 100% of grazable and tillable acres implementing soil-healthy practices by 2040

When we steward healthy soil, we are cultivating vibrant and resilient rural, urban, and suburban communities and economies. We cultivate thriving and resilient land that soaks up rain and sequesters carbon in perennial vegetation and soil organic matter. We foster healthy ecosystems with clean water and a sustainable climate for microorganisms, pollinators, wildlife, and people. We ensure that our future generations will have the soil they need to grow nutritious food for their communities. We protect our infrastructure, homes, and farms from the impacts of extreme weather. We create a strong path to receive federal funds that can be channeled straight to Minnesota farmers.

Additionally, the bill advances racial, economic, gender, and disability justice by prioritizing Black, brown, and Indigenous farmers, women farmers, farmers with disabilities and by prioritizing grants and direct payments based on farm size.

No matter where we live or what we look like, we depend on having a sustainable and just farm and food system. Yet, Minnesota's farmers are facing compounding challenges of extreme weather, financial crisis, and degrading topsoil. Now more than ever, we need public investment in farming that provides a public good.

The investments we make now will serve us well into the future and create a strong path to earn federal investment in our state. We know that, in partnership with decision-makers, we have the power to shape the landscape and our futures. We ask you to join us in investing in the land, Minnesota farmers, and all of our communities – rural, urban, and suburban.

Signed,

Audubon Minnesota
Austin (Chapter 10) of the Izaak Walton League of America
Cannon River Watershed Partnership
Central Minnesota Young Farmers Coalition
Clean Up our River Environment
Clean Water Action
Climate Generation
Community Power
COPAL
Ecolibrium3

Environment MN
The Food Group / Big River Farms
Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas
Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness
Friends of the Mississippi River
Greener Pastures
HEAL Food Alliance
Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
Hmong American Farmers Association
Honor the Earth
Humane Society of the United States
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
ISAIAH
Izaak Walton League of America
Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance
Land Stewardship Project
Latino Economic Development Center
Main Street Alliance of Minnesota
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Minnesota Environmental Partnership
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter
Minnesota Trout Unlimited
Minnesota Well Owners Organization
Native Sun
Pesticide Action Network
Pollinator Friendly Alliance
Renewing the Countryside
Sierra Club North Star Chapter
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota
TakeAction Minnesota
UNIDOS
Voices for Racial Justice
Vote Climate
YEA! MN
100% Campaign

cc: Governor Tim Walz, Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan