



MINNESOTA MILK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony on H.F. 1163 to the House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee

For the record, my name is Lucas Sjostrom. I am the executive director at the Minnesota Milk Producers Association, a member of the Minnesota AgriGrowth Council. I am also a partner in my family's dairy farm and cheese operation.

Both Minnesota Milk and AgriGrowth are founding members of the movement for drivers licenses for everyone.

Minnesota and our agriculture and food employers have a labor shortage. Many jobs require high skills, and many others are entry-level jobs that require hard work. Our Minnesota economy relies on immigrant labor to fill many of these jobs.

One thing you often hear in the debate over how to better accommodate workers, through education, immigration visas and accommodations to get people into employment, is whether we want people to help with low skills or high skills. I am here to tell you today that Minnesota dairy farmers and many other employers in agriculture in Minnesota employ people with a very high skill – hard work. These employees are also willing to and want to put in the effort to study, practice and pass a driver's license test, as well as pay money for insurance. But today, some of them cannot do that. That limits skills from being acquired, commerce from being transacted and a higher level of safety from being realized.

We want our families and employees to be safe and able to travel our state, whether to home, school, or work. That goal may only be achieved when every driver learned and passed driver safety training. Without opportunity, expectation is not achievable. Thank you.

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ABOUT THE MINNESOTA MILK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Minnesota Milk Producers Association is a membership organization representing grassroots dairy farmers through policy work, education and membership development. Our work is vital to the future of Minnesota's dairy industry and is directed by a board of dairy farmers elected by their peers. For more information, visit www.mnmilk.org.

Advancing the Success of Minnesota Dairy Farms