



February 15, 2021

Chair Torrey Westrom
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development Finance and Policy
3201 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: S.F. 566 (Weber) / Repealing recent restrictions on spreading manure and prohibiting future restrictions

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) appreciates the opportunity to share written testimony in support of S.F. 566, authored by Senator Weber. The recent actions of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to make changes to NDPEs Permits are unreasonable and lack the flexibility needed by farmers to manage manure on their farms.

Specifically, MFBF opposes eliminating the spreading of solid manure on fields during winter months.

We thank Senator Weber for bringing forward S.F. 566 to address the concerns MFBF raised during the comment period. The legislation amends current statute to protect feedlot permits from the inclusion of requirements that would prohibit farmer's ability to manage manure around favorable weather conditions.

Farmers control many aspects specific to their farm through advances in agricultural technologies. However, they cannot control the weather. From northern to southern Minnesota, spring can arrive nearly a full month earlier for those in the southern portion of the state. To tie regulations to specific calendar dates will limit farmer's flexibility to manage manure specific to the circumstances on their farm. We appreciate Senator Weber's efforts to repeal the recent restrictions and prohibit future restrictions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of MFBF membership. If you have any follow up, please do not hesitate to reach out to Amber Glaeser (amber.glaeser@fbmn.org) or Josie Lonetti (josie.lonetti@fbmn.org).

Sincerely,

Kevin Paap
President

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