

February 17, 2026

Senator Aric Putnam
Chair
Minnesota Senate Committee on Agriculture, Veterans,
Broadband, and Rural Development

Dear Chair Putnam and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the two Farm Credit associations serving Minnesota farmers, AgCountry Farm Credit Services (Ag Country), and Compeer Financial (Compeer), we want to express our support for S.F. xxxx that would extend the Farmer-Lender Mediation Act until June 30, 2032.

Compeer and AgCountry are part of the Farm Credit System, created by an Act of Congress over 100 years ago, with a mission exclusively dedicated to supporting agriculture and rural communities. As member-owned cooperatives, Compeer and Ag Country are owned by those we serve, including over 33,000 customer-owners in Minnesota.

From the perspective of both our organizations, the Farmer-Lender Mediation (FLM) Program in Minnesota has been a good model to help facilitate productive outcomes for farmers experiencing financial difficulties. Given some of the current economic challenges facing agriculture and the benefits FLM has provided to both farmers and lenders, we support the continuation of the program, and if necessary, additional resources to hire FLM mediators.

Sincerely,

Perry Aasness
Vice President Legislative Affairs
Compeer Financial

Andy Martin
Vice President of Legislative &
Public Affairs
Ag Country Farm Credit Services