



**THE 2023-2024 PLATFORM REPORT TO THE SENATE  
AGRICULTURE, BROADBAND, AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

To: Chair – Sen. Aric Putnam SD 14  
Vice-Chair – Sen. Robert Kupec SD 04  
Sen. Heather Gustafson SD 36  
Sen. Mary Kunesh SD 39  
Sen. Judy Seeberger SD 41

*The resolutions listed below are from part of our DFL platform, known as the Action Agenda and have been identified as potentially being relevant to the work of your committee. The support for each resolution is given; the number of Congressional Districts and Organizing Units backing the resolution, and the percentage of approval by the delegates to the State Convention.*

**Soil Health and Regenerative Farming**

Support funding to provide accessible grants and direct payments to farmers, as well as funds for research, technical assistance, and education, to establish and sustain soil health practices such as utilizing perennial crops, rotational grazing, cover crops, and no-till farming. Set a statewide goal to reach 5.75 million acres of farmland with soil-health practices by 2030, 11.5 million acres by 2035, and 23 million acres by 2040. Invest in rural communities and our food and farming system, to conserve and build healthy soils, clean our water, sequester carbon, and bolster farm income. [8 CDs, 85 OUs, 85%]

**Rural Infrastructure**

Support building the infrastructure needed by small and mid-sized farms in rural and urban communities to create regional food systems that support regenerative farming and provide all people with the nourishing foods they want and need, including investment in small business development and transitions, processing infrastructure, and marketing of goods and specialty crops. [8 CDs, 30 OUs, 84%]

**Border-To-Border**

Support the implementation and expansion of the Border-to-Border statewide broadband initiative (1) by providing stable multi-year funding, (2) by eliminating corporate-monopoly sponsored restrictions, obstacles, and preemptions, (3) by encouraging municipalities, (4) facilitate stronger Native Nations broadband access, and (5) go "the last mile" ensuring that no one is left behind. [8 CDs, 51 OUs, 88%]

**Unsafe Pesticides**

Support policies to reduce or eliminate the use of unsafe pesticides such as glyphosate, neonicotinoids, and chlorpyrifos in agriculture and on recreational land or lawns and require any business selling plants to let the public know whether or not the plant has been treated in any way with systemic pesticides from the neonicotinoid family. [8 CDs, 47 OUs, 83%]

**MPCA Citizen Board**

Support the restoration of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Citizen's Board to its full capacity and authority. [6 CDs, 7 OUs, 74%]

### **Fair Payments for Agricultural Land Use**

support adequate payment to farmer landowners when taking land out of production for buffer strips and waterways, with incentives to set up alternative agriculture production systems including haying and grazing. [7 CDs, 22 OUs, 78%]

### **Dismantle racial, gender, and economic injustice**

Support taking bold action to dismantle racial, gender and economic injustice in our democracy, institutions, and public programs. [7 CDs, 14 OUs, 84%]

### **Prevention of Rural and Urban Food Deserts**

support innovative programs to identify and prevent rural and urban food deserts by establishing food coops and/or small independent grocery stores in both rural and urban communities through grants and/or tax credits. [7 CDs, 19 OUs, 82%]

### **Large Scale Animal Operation Accountability**

Commit to holding large-scale animal agricultural operations accountable for the pollution they create and the environmental and community costs of their production practices; and to fight any attempt to weaken Minnesota's existing local control regulations. [8 CDs, 26 OUs, 72%]

### **Community Food & Water Resiliency**

Support a sustainable, statewide, locally adapted food economy from source-to-table that is designed to be inclusive, expands SNAP benefits and helps create health and well-being for all people in rural and urban communities, including under-served communities such as Black, Indigenous, and immigrant communities, and the rural poor. [5 CDs, 9 OUs, 81%]

### **Meat Processing, Competition in Livestock Industry**

support more competition in the meat processing industry through enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act, promoting meat cutting programs at vocational schools, and grants to local butcher shops to expand their businesses to compete with the major packers. [4 CDs, 14 OUs, 73%]

### **Fully Fund School Meals**

Support full funding for all nutrition programs at public schools including, but not limited to healthy food at breakfast, lunch, and snack time. [5 CDs, 9 OUs, 94%]

### **Legalize Marijuana**

Supports the legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana in a manner similar to that of tobacco or alcohol, the pardoning of those currently incarcerated for related offenses, and the retroactive expungement of criminal records for related offenses. [8 CDs, 30 OUs, 83%]

### **Affordable Housing**

Expand resources for a range of affordable housing: apartments, townhouses, and starter/small homes for individuals, families, and seniors throughout the state. Protect public housing and balance the rights of renters with the interests of property owners. [7 CDs, 20 OUs, 88%]

### **Homelessness**

Homelessness and housing are state-wide issues. All levels of government must renew their commitments to decent housing options, affordable for all. Solutions must include safe neighborhoods, removal of income and racial barriers to decent housing and ensuring no one must spend more than 30% of their monthly income on permanent housing. [4 CDs, 8 OUs, 80%]

### **Green New Deal**

Supports a Green New Deal to rapidly cut greenhouse gas emissions and provide an equitable energy future, establishing millions of high paying jobs, affordable housing, investing in multi-modal transportation options; to provide clean air and water, healthy food, and a sustainable environment for all. [7 CDs, 35 OUs, 80%]

### **Right to Repair Laws**

Support Right to Repair Laws to protect consumers from manufacturers that restrict the ability of third party and self-repair of their products (like farm tractors or cell phones) that are already purchased. [ 3 CDs, 5 OUs, 80%]

### **Electric Cooperatives**

Support legislative oversight of Minnesota's member-owned electric cooperatives to improve transparency and ensure there is opportunity for input from members before key decisions are made that affect asset management, member payments, or climate impacts. [ 4 CDS, 09 OUs, 72%]

### **Statewide, High Quality Public Schools**

Support all public school students having access to local, quality public education through an equitable funding formula to maintain uniform, high quality public schools throughout the state. [8 CDs,35 OUs,91%]

### **Aging in Place**

Supports expanding, improving, and fully funding all programs that constitute a viable safety net for Minnesota's senior citizens to stay in their homes, provide in-home services to improve seniors' ability to age in place, and provide efficient, safe, convenient transportation options. [ 8 CDs, 20 OUs, 87%]

### **Zero-Carbon**

Supports a transition to 100% clean electricity by 2040 as part of a plan that reduces racial, gender & economic disparities and provides high paying jobs, while cutting greenhouse gases by 45% by 2030 and to "net zero" by 2050. We support a massive shift in electricity generation towards a future powered by wind, solar, storage, and a modern electrical grid that will power our homes, businesses, and transportation. [8 CDs, 59 OUs, 78%]

### **Protect Wolves**

Oppose wolf hunting/trapping including the use of snares, support grant programs to fund farmers' use of nonlethal prevention methods, fair streamlined reimbursement for livestock losses, and increase public education efforts as to how wolves live. [4 CDs, 5 OUs, 65%]

### **Bonding Bill**

Urge the Minnesota Legislature to pass a large bonding bill, leveraging federal funding from the bipartisan Infrastructure and Jobs Act to create thousands of family sustaining jobs. [5 CDs,6 OUs,78%]

### **Statewide Passenger Rail System**

We support the re-introduction of regional passenger rail service to rural Minnesota on the statewide network of existing rail lines as designated in the Minnesota Statewide Rail Plan as a powerful catalyst for rural economic development. [5 CDs, 13 OUs, 76%]

*We present this report as a summary of the passion of our grass roots, a vision of our caring society. We appreciate your support for the DFL's legislative priorities as you move forward this session. Thank you for supporting the people of Minnesota.*