

Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Congressman Jim Hagedorn (MN-01)

As a member of the Agriculture Committee, my work in Congress is focused on the needs of America's farmers and producers. The COVID-19 pandemic devastated the hog industry, leading to producers intentionally depopulating herds due to lack of processing capacity. The Trump Administration deserves credit for pushing out multiple CFAP payments and the Farmers to Families Food Box Program in order to support producers and consumers alike.

Last Congress, I introduced legislation that would authorize more Customs and Border Patrol Agriculture Specialists at ports of entry. These CBP Ag Specialists are crucial to ensuring our imports are not contaminated with foreign diseases, including African Swine Fever. I encourage the subcommittee to provide strong funding for additional specialists to make sure there are no inspection gaps

There are over a dozen ethanol plants and biofuels facilities through Minnesota's First District. These serve as additional markets for farmers to market their crops, while also lowering the price of fuel for consumers. However, many retail fuel stations cannot afford to upgrade their tanks, lines, and pumps to ensure they are E15 compliant. The Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentives Program at

USDA makes key investments to rural fueling stations in order to provide more consumers with E15 fuel, and its funding should be increased.

Communities across Minnesota need fast, reliable internet connection to ensure their businesses and students do not fall behind. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown just how broad the digital divide is, and Congress needs to help bridge this gap. The ReConnect Program at USDA has invested millions to increase broadband deployment in small, rural communities, and I urge the subcommittee to continue the funding levels for this important program.

Thank you for your time today and I look forward to continued conversations on how Congress can support America's agriculture industry through targeted investments, and not burdensome regulations.