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Chairman Thomas and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee. I am here today in support of House Bill 1148 which would create an agriculture infrastructure fund program within the Department of Agriculture to assist in the development of new and/or existing value-added agriculture businesses.

I believe that this program would complement economic development and would add value to our rural communities by supporting crop and livestock production. It would address any concerns that may exist with infrastructure issues in some of our townships and counties.

Once again thank you for letting me address the committee today, I would like to stress that this program is important and would be beneficial to the agricultural industry. I urge a do pass on HB 1148. I would be happy to answer any questions.