

Advocating for Ohio agribusinesses by creating both a sustainable business climate and added member value through collaborative policy leadership, continuous education and effective communication.

Representative Kris Jordan Chair, House Financial Institutions Committee 77 S. High St., 11<sup>th</sup> Floor Columbus, OH 43215

December 6, 2021

On behalf of the Ohio AgriBusiness Association membership, I am writing in support of House Bill 440 which will improve Ohio's Ag-LINK program for the benefit of Ohio farmers and agribusinesses.

Our membership includes the manufacturers and suppliers of fertilizer and plant protection materials, the grain warehousing and marketing industry, the feed and seed industries, as well as companies providing equipment, financing, insurance, consulting, and other products and services for Ohio's number one industry, agriculture.

We know the profound impact Ag-LINK can make in helping farmers and agribusinesses finance operating costs at a reduced rate. The proposal takes this valuable tool to the next level and will go a long way in supporting even more members of the agriculture community. Our association stands in support of this effort to modernize and improve the Ag-LINK program.

House Bill 440 is especially timely considering the rapidly increasing costs of agricultural inputs going into the 2022 growing season. I appreciate the leadership of the joint sponsors, Representatives Swearingen and White's leadership on this issue, as well as the foresight of Treasurer Sprague in bringing these updates forward. I urge this committee to support the bill. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns about our position.

Sincerely,

Christopher Henney, CAE

President and Chief Executive Officer