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There are multiple reasons why LD 437 should have resounding support by the Legislature. It would establish a program that would help our farmers by providing them with the knowledge - and access to key resources - that they can use in employing the best practices of regenerative agriculture. With the changing Climate, our farms are coming under threat as never before. Regenerative agricultural practices have been demonstrated to be beneficial in a number of ways that would help them withstand - and perhaps even thrive - under increasingly stressful conditions. Regenerative Agriculture is focused on increasing soil health and vitality and has been proven to show results such as:

Maintenance of Crop Yields

According to the Nature Conservancy Organization, regenerative agricultural practices “reduce the risk of yield loss due to stressors, and can bring about a material increase in crop yields and quality.” Other reports from the Rodale Institute show that yields can be maintained and at times increased.

Growth of More Resilient Crops

According to the Rodale Institute, yields “under organic systems are likely to be more resilient to extreme weather... in the long-running Farming System Trial, in drought years, yields were consistently higher in the organic system. For instance, organic corn yields were 28-to-34% higher than conventional.” In general, having resilient crops comes back to the soil and increasing soil biodiversity. By ensuring that soils are healthy and teeming with beneficial soil microbes, farmers can naturally displace and suppress disease.

Improved Farm Profitability

According to several reports, switching to regenerative agriculture can actually increase a farm’s profitability. For example, according to Farmland LP, a fund that invests in converting conventional farmland to regenerative, organic farming, they have seen gross margins around 40-to-50% on wine grapes and single-digit improvements on commodity crops. In another example, researchers Claire LaCanne and Dr. Jonathan Lundgren note that regenerative agriculture grown corn reaped 78% higher profits than conventional corn production systems. And, according to General Mills, it builds farmer economic resilience. They state that “regenerative agricultural practices can reduce the need for expensive chemical inputs.”

Above All: Regenerative Agriculture is an Effective Way to Fight Climate Change.

In a white paper titled “Regenerative Organic Agriculture and Climate Change”, the Rodale Institute states that “we could sequester more than 100% of current annual CO2 emissions with a switch to widely available and inexpensive organic management practices, which we term 'regenerative organic agriculture.'”

I urge this Legislature to consider this information and vote for passage of LD437.