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HOUSE FILE NO. 954

FIRST COMMITTEE ENGROSSMENT

February 15, 2007

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance

Referred by Chair to Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs Finance Division.

March 7, 2007

Returned to the Committee on Finance as Amended.

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to appropriations; appropriating money to the Board of Regents for
1.3 agricultural research; requiring a report.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA SPECIAL APPROPRIATION;**
1.6 **AGRICULTURE.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota.** The sums
1.8 indicated in this section are appropriated from the general fund to the Board of Regents of
1.9 the University of Minnesota for the purposes and the fiscal years designated.

1.10 Subd. 2. **Agriculture special appropriation.** \$58,000,000 in fiscal year 2008 and
1.11 \$58,000,000 in fiscal year 2009 are for agricultural experiment stations, extension service,
1.12 and research efforts that demonstrate a renewed emphasis on the needs of the state's
1.13 production agriculture community and a continued focus on renewable energy derived
1.14 from Minnesota biomass resources including agronomic crops, plant and animal wastes,
1.15 and native plants or trees. Priority should be given to developing undergraduate and
1.16 graduate programming related to renewable energy and agriculture production while
1.17 maintaining current staff.

1.18 In the area of production agriculture, priority should be given to projects pertaining
1.19 to: extending the Minnesota vegetable growing season; alternative and pasture-based
1.20 livestock operations; fertilizer and soil fertility research and development; treating and
1.21 curing human diseases utilizing livestock cells; using biofuel production coproducts as
1.22 feed for livestock; organic research and education; and a rapid agricultural response fund
1.23 for current or emerging animal, plant, and insect problems affecting production or food

2.1 safety. In addition, the appropriation may be used to secure a facility and retain current
2.2 faculty levels for poultry research currently conducted at UMore Park.

2.3 In the area of renewable energy, priority should be given to projects pertaining to:
2.4 biofuel and other energy production from small grains; alternative bioenergy crops and
2.5 cropping systems; and growing, harvesting, and transporting biomass plant material.

2.6 Subd. 3. **Report.** No later than February 1, 2009, the Regents of the University of
2.7 Minnesota or their authorized representative must report on the progress and outcomes of
2.8 the research projects funded under this subdivision to the house and senate committees
2.9 with jurisdiction over agricultural finance and higher education finance.