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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**DON RONE**

State Representative
District 149

June 2, 2021

The Honorable Michael L. Parson
Governor, State of Missouri
PO Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Parson:

I am writing to request your consideration of a special legislative session to address a number of legislative items directly affecting agriculture in our great state. As you are aware, agriculture is the number one industry in Missouri. While it was my hope these issues would be heard and voted on in both the House and Senate chambers during regular session, they were not.

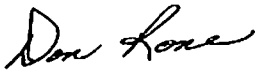
Throughout session legislators in both chambers worked on a number of priority bills relating to agriculture. We found widespread support and agreed to them in the House Substitute for SB 37. The underlying portion of Senate Bill 37 deals with regulation changes for anhydrous ammonia. This is a critical update to our current laws that will keep Missouri in line with federal standards and prevent possible intervention from the EPA. The bill extends a pilot program allowing recipients to use Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits at local farmers markets. This has been a successful way to give families and children much needed access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Additionally, SB 37 extended the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA) tax credit programs that are set to sunset on December 31, 2021. These programs have brought \$247M in direct and indirect benefits to Missouri since 2000. Also, in SB 37 are two tax credits, ethanol which is to expire December 31, 2021 and a tax credit for biodiesel.

Finally, a special session should be called to allow the provisions of HB 527 to be heard in the Senate – a bill that restricts the use of eminent domain for merchant utility lines and requires all affected county commissioners to present a resolution of support for the proposed project to the Public Service Commission PSC before proceeding. This is an issue of great concern for agriculturalists and all Missouri landowners, and we have a duty to provide them with certainty moving forward.

The Honorable Michael L. Parson
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The legislative issues in the agriculture space were, sadly, overshadowed by trivial tactics at the close of our regular session. I humbly request you consider taking up these fundamental issues during a special session.

Sincerely,



Don Rone
State Representative, District 149
Chair, House Agriculture Policy Committee



Mike Bernskoetter
State Senator, District 6
Chair, Senate Agriculture Committee



Rick Francis
State Representative, District 145
Vice Chair, House Agriculture Policy Committee



Jason Bean
State Senator, District 25
Vice Chair, Senate Agriculture Committee

cc: The Honorable Mike Kehoe
The Honorable Rob Vescovo
The Honorable Dean Plocher
The Honorable Dave Schatz
The Honorable Caleb Rowden