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Dear Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, I commend your dedicated service to the Turfgrass Phosphorus Fertilizer Training Program. It is a privilege to acknowledge your efforts and recognize the valuable education this program provides to Minnesota's golf course and landscape management personnel.

To date, 429 industry professionals have successfully completed this program which allows them to apply phosphorus fertilizer to golf courses and other landscapes in a manner protective of the state's water resources. The program meets the requirements of the Minnesota's lawn phosphorus fertilizer law which states: *"...fertilizer containing plant food phosphorus can be used on a golf course under the direction of a person licensed, certified, or approved by an organization with an ongoing training program approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture."*

The Turfgrass Phosphorus Fertilizer Training Program has trained professionals in phosphorus use restrictions, basic soils and soil testing, soil fertility, phosphorus chemistry, nutrition, and fate, phosphorus fertilizer recommended rates, calibration of application equipment, and environmental conditions. Since 2003, 15 four-hour training sessions have been held. In addition, parts of this training have been given at 22 state, 5 national, and 4 international conferences. The training program database shows that golf course personnel (and others) who have received training have also diligently retrained every two years in effort to keep current on industry research and other related pertinent information.

Thank you for educating professionals who are responsible for applying phosphorus fertilizer to golf courses and other landscapes. According to the Journal of Applied Turfgrass Science, your work has helped golf course personnel set a trend within the North Central agronomic region by reducing the annual amount of phosphorus applied to golf courses between 2002 and 2006, playing an integral role in preventing phosphorus from reaching surface waters.

With gratitude and sincerity,



Gene Hugoson  
Commissioner

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