

Dear SBARE,

As a non-profit agriculture organization dedicated to advancing agriculture across the Midwest, we see significant value in strengthening CAPTS' capacity—particularly in areas that support Midwest-specific, rapid response analysis. Our producers and agribusiness partners operate in a landscape where market shifts, transportation bottlenecks, and federal policy changes can quickly affect profitability.

Having dedicated analytic capacity that can translate these developments into timely insights for our region would greatly improve how we plan, respond, and adapt. To more effectively serve Midwest needs, I believe CAPTS would benefit from expanded staffing capacity, enhanced access to real time market, transportation, and energy data, and more robust modeling and analytics tools. Dashboards and decision tools that stakeholders can directly use—especially around policy changes, basis patterns, and logistics conditions—would support better on the ground decision making and strengthen coordination across states.

With this added capacity, decisions related to risk management, policy evaluation, infrastructure planning, cross state supply chain coordination, and producer financial strategy would improve across the Midwest. Our region relies on transparent, data driven guidance to remain competitive and resilient. Strengthening CAPTS would ensure that producers, cooperatives, commodity groups, and policymakers have rapid, trusted analysis rooted in the realities of the Upper Midwest agricultural economy.

Collin Peterson