Minnesota Farmers Tariff Relief Act (FTR Act)

A Percentage-for-Percentage Property Tax Stabilization Program

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to provide temporary, proportional property tax relief to Minnesota agricultural producers who experience verified financial losses directly attributable to international tariffs imposed on U.S. agricultural exports.

While the State of Minnesota does not control federal trade policy or international tariffs, Minnesota can provide equal, immediate relief that balances tariff-related losses until trade conditions stabilize.

This Act applies strictly to tariff-induced losses and shall not compensate for weather variability, market cycles, or production risk.

Section 2. Definitions

A. Tariff Impact Percentage (TIP)
The verified percentage reduction in net per-acre revenue directly attributable to foreign tariffs on exported Minnesota agricultural commodities.

B. Qualified Agricultural Producer
A Minnesota landowner or operator classified as agricultural (Class 2a) under Minnesota law and actively engaged in agricultural production.

Section 3. Quarterly Tariff Determination

1. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), in coordination with the Department of Revenue (DOR), shall determine and publish a Quarterly Tariff Impact Percentage (TIP).

2. The TIP shall be calculated based on:
- Current international tariff rates affecting Minnesota's primary exported commodities.
- Verified export price differentials attributable specifically to tariff impact.
- Economic data from the most recently completed fiscal quarter.

3. The published TIP shall apply to the following quarter's property tax calculation.

Section 4. Property Tax Adjustment

1. Qualified agricultural producers shall receive a property tax reduction equal to the published Quarterly Tariff Impact Percentage (TIP).

2. Relief applies only to land actively used for agricultural production.

3. The reduction shall not exceed the verified tariff impact percentage.

4. If tariffs are reduced or eliminated, the TIP shall automatically adjust downward or terminate accordingly in the following quarter.

Section 5. Fiscal Stability & Infrastructure Protection

1. The Legislature recognizes that rural agricultural areas generally experience lower infrastructure intensity due to lower population density and traffic volume.

2. Implementation of this Act is not expected to create significant disruption to essential infrastructure services when responsibly managed.

3. Local governments and school districts may be required to prioritize and adjust budget allocations during periods of active tariff relief.

4. The State of Minnesota shall establish an Agricultural Stabilization Backstop Fund to:
- Protect essential rural road maintenance
- Ensure continued school operations
- Maintain emergency services funding

5. If any county, township, or school district demonstrates material hardship directly attributable to this Act, the State shall provide temporary equalization support.

6. The intent of this Act is stabilization — not service reduction.

Section 6. Sunset Clause

This Act shall sunset five (5) years from enactment unless reauthorized by the Legislature.

Section 7. Legislative Intent

Minnesota may not control trade wars. But Minnesota can control how it protects its farmers.

When government policy creates measurable economic disadvantage, state policy should provide proportional, temporary stabilization.

This Act ensures Minnesota farmers can continue planting, producing, and sustaining rural communities until international trade conditions normalize.