



March 22, 2022

Chair Torrey Westrom
Vice Chair Gary Dahms
Senator Erin Murphy
Members, Minnesota House Ag Finance and Policy Committee

I am writing to strongly support **SF 4184**, which directs the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to prepare a report on the state of local and regional food systems, and offer recommendations for further strengthening this sector.

I am a facilitator of the MinneAg Network (www.MinneAg.org) which is made up of community-rooted farm and food systems organizations that prioritize agricultural practices that nourish people and planet. What gets measured gets managed: local and regional food systems are a vital part of our economy, our communities, and our environments but are often left out of key reporting from MDA and others. This report will help direct future programs and policies to strengthen our local and regional food systems, creating resilient communities for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

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