

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Dear Chair Putnam, Vice-Chair Kupec, and Members of the Committee

I'd like to request your support for Senator Gustafson's bill SF 1727 which includes funding for The Good Acre's LEAFF program. I am a food safety educator at the University of Minnesota Extension who works statewide with emerging farmers around food safety. I have worked for many years with The Good Acre food hub to provide food safety trainings with small emerging farmers that have sold into their program. Food safety is a critical aspect of local food systems, and these trainings have been useful to ensure the use of Good Agricultural Practices among the small farmers that sell into the Good Acre. I believe that the Good Acre and the LEAFF program supports market access opportunities for Minnesota's new and emerging produce farmers.

By investing in the LEAFF program, more fresh produce grown by emerging farmers in Minnesota will make it to local food shelves. We know that communities of color are more than twice as likely to be facing hunger in our state. Having farmers of color be included getting healthy and culturally specific crops into the hunger relief pipeline is what One Minnesota is all about.

Please support HF 1744 to help make sure more food from here is for here. The program lays a framework that will help strengthen the local food system and ensure that farmers of color have the market access they need to run a sustainable farm business. It also will help to make sure our most vulnerable citizens have access to the very best of Minnesota's bountiful harvest.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Annalisa Hultberg, Extension Educator, Food Safety

University of Minnesota Extension