



March 3, 2023

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

I'd like to request your support for SF 1727 which includes funding for The Good Acre's LEAFF program. I work at Hmong American Partnership located in Saint Paul and we believe in supporting 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 SF 1727 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mayyer Thao".

**May yer "mine-za" Thao**

**President & CEO**

**Email:** [mayyert@hmong.org](mailto:mayyert@hmong.org)

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