

March 2, 2023

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

My name is Bao Xiong. I live in St. Paul and farm in Nerstrand, MN. The money I made through LEAFF helped me pay for supplies and materials for my farm. I would like LEAFF to continue, and I am very thankful for the assistance I've received from both LEAFF and The Good Acre.

Bao Xiong
482 Thomas Ave
St Paul MN 55103

March 2, 2023

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

My name is Moses Momanyi, I live and farm in Cambridge, MN. I like LEAFF because of the support the program offers for beginning farmers. Please support LEAFF so that more beginning and emerging farmers can get their food into the hunger relief pipeline. Keep it up TGA.

Moses Momanyi
Dawn2Dusk Farm
3677 361st Ave NE
Cambridge MN 55008

March 2, 2023

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

My name is Chue Chang, I live in St. Paul and farm in Cannon Falls, MN. I like that with LEAFF were able to harvest and sell enough to support our family for the summer, because we rely on our farm and produce during the summertime to make income. LEAFF and TGA staff are extremely helpful through every step. Please support this program.

Chue Chang
686 Lawson Ave E.
St Paul MN 55106

March 2, 2023

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

My name is Chong Mua, I live in Brooklyn Park and farm in Marine on St. Croix, MN. I like the LEAFF program because they are not picky about what they take, plus LEAFF helps us learn more about farming. I hope the LEAFF program continues because it helps me to make more money and the LEAFF program and The Good Acre makes it easier for everyone to sell their produce.

Chong Mua
10592 Colorado Ave
Brooklyn Park, MN 565443

March 2, 2023

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

My name is Mao Kue and I farm in Hastings MN. The program is really flexible with the vegetables I can bring. LEAFF is a program that helps us farm stay in business for my family. Also, LEAFF is one of the best programs that I have joined. I would like to continue to stay with LEAFF.

Mao Kue
1550 Iowa Ave East
St. Paul, MN 55106

March 2, 2023

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

My name is Chong Lor and I farm in Faribault, MN. I like that LEAFF helps me purchase my produce in bulk so it doesn't go to waste. They help me a lot by giving me business.

Chong Lor
58 East Road
Circle Pines, MN 55014

March 2, 2023

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

My name Tou Vang, I live in Maplewood and farm in Dennison, MN. LEAFF is a great program to help farmers sell their produce. I would like LEAFF to continue because it will continue to help farmers grow. LEAFF is a program that has helped me as a farmer so much during Covid times, and continues to help me sell my produce. The Good Acre is always there to help me and many other farmers.

You Vang
1830 Summer Ave
Maplewood MN, 55109

March 2, 2023

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

My name is Chang Vang, I live in St. Paul and farm in Hastings, MN. I like LEAFF because it gives me the ability to supply my produce to a group who can distribute my products to those in need. I would like LEAFF to continue to help those in need. LEAFF also helps me utilize my produce rather than just using as compost.

Chang Vang
1661 Fremont Ave
St. Paul MN 55106

March 2, 2023

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

My name is Lor Yang. I live in Lino Lakes and farm in Hastings, MN. The LEAFF program provides extra income to help pay bills, buy groceries, and betters the community by providing additional income to my family, it also benefits low-income families and communities. Please support this program.

Lor Yang
665 Arlo Lane
Lino Lakes, MN, 55014

March 2, 2023

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

My name is Wa Kou Hang, I live in Maplewood, MN and farm in Marine on St. Croix. LEAFF helps to offset any sales lost from other market streams. Because we grow quality fresh vegetables for Minnesota families and we support the MN economy, please continue to fund The Good Acre for LEAFF program because TGA has been supporting local farmers for many years.

Wa Kou Hang
1978 Payne Avenue
Maplewood, MN

March 2, 2023

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

My name is Jane Onchiri, I live in Coon Rapids and I farm in Lino Lakes. The LEAFF program enabled me to earn an income to support my family and I learned a lot on how to improve and sustain the soil for better production. As a full-time farmer, I depend on my produce sales for my income. LEAFF has given me the market and an opportunity to grow my business. LEAFF should be given more funding to continue supporting more farmers, especially of African origin who are not able to access other bigger markets.

Jane Onchiri
59 91st LN NW
Coon Rapids MN 55448

March 3, 2023

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

My name is Callan Bosire, I live in Andover and farm in Lino Lakes, MN. LEAFF has really changed our family finances because our produce used to go to waste but when LEAFF came in, it saved us and it could accept us as people of color. I love LEAFF because it does not discriminate against us. Now we can do our farming with no worry. We are farmers and we rely on LEAFF to take our produce. The Good Acre is a wonderful organization, especially to us African immigrants.

Callan Bosire
14336 Vale Street NW
Andover, MN 55304

March 3, 2023

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

My name is Choua Yang, I live and farm in Istanti, MN. I like the LEAFF program because it supports farmers by buying their produce. Some farmers have one farmer market or none, or farmers are beginners, or many farmers are relying only on their farm income. BIG THANKS, and appreciation to The Good Acre's staff for working so hard supporting farmers to continue growing in farm business. Without The Good Acre, Farmers would not be able to move forward on marketing their produce.

Choua Yang
1554 267 1/2 Ave NE
Isanti, MN 55040

March 3, 2023

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

My name is Xou Her, I live in St. Paul and farm in Isanti. The LEAFF Program helps me and buys my produce because I don't have farmer's market. I would like the LEAFF Program to continue because I want to be able to sell my produces and continue to farm, to grow, and to move forward in the farm business.

Thank you to The Good Acre's staff for bringing me in the LEAFF program to help buy my produces. I am hoping to see the LEAFF Program continue in the future to support our farmers. Receiving support, farmers would be able to continue to bring in healthy food to the community.

Xou Her
411 Arlington Ave E,
St. Paul, MN 55130

March 1, 2023

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

My name is Rebecca Sue Vang. I live in Maplewood, MN and farm in Rosemount, MN. I like that we can sell excess produce to the LEAFF program without having to go to the farmers' market. I would like LEAFF to continue because it's a guaranteed amount of income.

Rebecca Sue Vang
1810 Flandrau Street
Maplewood, MN

March 1, 2023

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

We did the LEAFF program for two years but not last year because we transitioned to wholesale. I like LEAFF because it saves time and they take any produce that we have, especially when we do not have time to sell at the farmers market.

Tong Xiong
7822 Xerxes Ct N
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

March 1, 2023

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

My name is Yee Moua, I live in Maplewood and farm in Dennison, MN. I like the LEAFF program for two reasons. The first reason is that it helps me and my farm. The second is that it helps people who are struggling to get food on their tables. Please support this bill, SF 1727.

Yee Moua
449 Sterling St S
Maplewood, MN 55119

February 28, 2023

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

My name is Funwi Tita, I live in Buffalo, MN and farm in Montrose, MN. LEAFF is a major market outlet for my farm and serves a critical need for food desert communities. There is an increased need for farmers like me to have place where they can sell their produce. This need is even more important for the emerging farmer. It is my hope that the funding is not only maintained but also increased to meet the growing needs of the farming community in Minnesota.

Thank you for supporting SF 1727.

Funwi Tita
2203 Saddlebrook Rd
Buffalo MN 55313

February 28, 2023

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

My name is Maichong Moua, I live in St. Paul and farm in Vermillion, MN. I have participated in LEAFF for the last two years and I notice that it helps a lot with our small farmers. I believe that the more funding from LEAFF the more food to feed those that need it. LEAFF helps so many farmers and helps a lot of people who need vegetables.

LEAFF is the only source that will help people like our small family farmers and families that needed food on their dining tables. Please continue with LEAFF, we all need this funding because it helps so many people like us.

I will like to thank The Good Acre and the LEAFF program, because of them I have the opportunity to share my own vegetables to all families that needs them. I'm very happy that LEAFF gives us the funding so we get the opportunity to share with others what we plant with our own hands and hard work.

Sincerely,
Maichong Moua
2251 Reaney Ave
St Paul MN 55119

February 28, 2023

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

My name is Javier Garcia I farm on Agua Gorda Farm in Long Prairie, MN. LEAFF buys extra produce from me and I think we need to help other people put food out on their tables. That helps me and my farm to get extra money.

Javier Garcia
23638 230th St
Long Prairie, MN 56347

February 28, 2023

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

My name is Ma Vang and I have a farm in Hastings, MN. I like the LEAFF program a lot, it helped a lot for selling things that I couldn't sell in other places. I would like the LEAFF program to continue. It's very good for my farm business.

Sincerely,
Ma Vang
826 Morgan Ave North
Minneapolis, MN 55411

February 28, 2023

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

My name is See Thao and I farm in Corcoran, MN. I would like extra funding for the LEAFF program. Because of it, we are able to sell all of our produce and waste nothing on our farm.

See Thao
5301 77th Ave N
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

February 28, 2023

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

Hello, my name is Joyce Kingoina and I have a farm in Lino Lakes. I like everything about the LEAFF program. I didn't have a market. It saved me from wasting my produce and people on the other end get my food and I can make money. The income from LEAFF keeps my farming business sustainable and helps me to pay a few bills and invest back in my farm. I hope the LEAFF program continues and it would be great to have a guarantee that is more than \$5000. That money goes a long way, and it especially benefits us emerging farmers. The Good Acre is who held out a hand and helped us learn how to sell wholesale. Thank you for supporting this program.

Joyce Koingina
6407 Camden Avenue North Apt 202
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

February 28, 2023

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

My name is Jesus Carrillo and I farm in Foley, MN. I like the fact that LEAFF gives us the opportunity to sell any produce that we have extra so we don't put it to waste. Please keep supporting the farmers and new market opportunities for us.

Jesus Carrillo
9366 135th Avenue NE
Foley, MN 56329

February 28, 2023

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

My name is Pheng Yang and I farm in Montgomery, MN. I like that you can basically sell any type of produce to the LEAFF program. I would like LEAFF to continue. It is a really great program, it helps people like me.

Pheng Yang
6401 Florida Ave N
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

February 28, 2023

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

My name is Naima Dhore and I farm in Alexandria, MN. The LEAFF program really helped us last year. It was a boost of motivation that helped us in a year when we transitioned from one farm in the Twin Cities to another in Alexandria. It helped me to start up the new farm and transition without the need to fully commit to a contract, so we could bring anything we had grown.

I'd like LEAFF to continue, it is an incredible partnership. I'm moving to another farm again, and for new emerging farmers LEAFF gives them a boost of confidence that you have a market. \$5000 can go fast but it is also a good size commitment for those who are new. Please increase the funding for LEAFF, it's a great program so more farmers can access it and expand.

Naima Dhore
2276 E Lake Jessie RD SE
Alexandria, MN 56308

February 28, 2023

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

My name is Mai Lee and I farm in Vermillion, MN. I like the LEAFF program because they help you and you don't have to waste produce. Once they started to help me, I could sell them everything and now I don't have to lose produce or waste food. I want LEAFF to continue forever.

Sincerely,

Mai Lee
2692 Geranium Ave E
Maplewood, MN 55119

February 28, 2023

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

My name is Der Thao and I farm in Hampton and Rosemount, MN. I like LEAFF because they actually bought produce from us, we are able to send it to them and it helps if we have too much produce. It would help us a lot with time, we would rather sell it to LEAFF than to put it out in the market.

Der Thao
425 Schletty Lane
West St. Paul, MN 55118

February 28, 2023

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

My name is Naton Vang and I farm in Rosemount, MN. I love LEAFF because they don't mind about the size of the produce or bunches, they help you learn the growing standards, and they accept any kind of veggies we grow. The LEAFF program is easy for us because they will take anything we have extra in the field, so you don't lose or waste anything. It's a lot of help. I'd like it to continue! I love it, when we started our farm we knew that our produce would go to The Good Acre. It feels good to know the place it's going to and that LEAFF produce is helping those in other communities.

Naton Vang
1115 York Avenue, Apt 11
Saint Paul, MN 55106