



4407 E Lake St, Minneapolis, MN 55406

Testimony

Testimony presented before the Minnesota Senate Committee on Agriculture Broadband and Rural Development Policy on March 6, 2023

Regarding: Testimony in Support of SF2158

Thank you Chair Putnam, Vice-Chair Kupec, and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to provide this written testimony today.

Our Food Systems Team at MN350 represents community members in the twin cities, who stand in support of a thriving local food system that feeds all members of the community. We urge you to support the Farm to School & Early Care Bill S.F. 2158 (Gustafson) and include it in the final Agricultural Finance Omnibus bill.

The Farm to School bill contributes to our vision of a healthy food system, providing our children with the access they deserve to healthy local foods. It does so while providing support to our local farmers, keeping the dollars we spend on school food within the Minnesota economy. A study out of Oregon showed that for every dollar spent on Farm to School programs, \$2.16 is generated in additional economic activity for the local economy.

The Farm to School & Early Care bill is an investment in our children, local farms and economy. Please support and vote "yes" on the Farm to School & Early Care bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Mia Farinas
Food Systems Organizer
MN350 Action