



*Serving the Counties of
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March 3rd, 2023

Senate Committee Administrator, Hunter Pederson, in reference to:
Senate bill (SF2158) Farm to School program.

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Attn: Senate Committee Administrator, Hunter Pederson.
In reference to Senate bill (SF2158) Farm to School

On behalf of Northwestern Minnesota Juvenile Center, I would like to offer my support for bill SF2158, Farm to school program establishment and appropriation. Northwestern Juvenile Center has a school within its walls, named 'First City School' our physical location is Bemidji Minnesota. We are located in a very rural area, but our Center houses youth from all over Minnesota. Our youth are placed here by court order for a variety of reasons including but not limited to Residential Treatment. With an enrollment of 55 on average, ages 10-19.

We have participated in farm-to-school programming for approximately 2 years. The passage of this bill would allow us to further explore and create new farm-to-school partnerships with farmers in our community and provide an opportunity to expand our kitchen programming for our youth. Unlike a normal school, our children live here full-time. So with the help of this program, we have offered many new foods to our youth.

Over the last 2 years, the extra funds have helped us start a salad bar, and do cooking classes for our youth. While maintaining our budget and fiscal responsibilities.

We fully support this bill and look forward to growing the farm-to-school program because it is what's best for our students and our community.

Sincerely,

Erica Fauchald
NMJC Food Service Supervisor
Bemidji MN, 56601