



March 16, 2023

TO: Chair Putnam and Members of the MN Senate Agriculture, Broadband and Rural Development Committee

Subject: Support for Farmers' Market Bill SF2900

My name is Beverly Dougherty and I strongly support Senate File 2900—Support for Farmers' Markets and Direct Marketing Producers

My son and I are the owner/managers of Becker (farmers) Market in Willmar, Minnesota. We have been doing this work in purchasing and selling local food from farmers for all these years. With the burst of grant money for Farm-To-School, we have set up a purchasing website for schools, nursing homes, daycares—to quickly place orders and get deliveries. \$10,000 would allow us to purchase a larger van and buy more refrigeration and freezing capability. We could actually keep up with the growth we expect and prepare for even more expansion in the sale of local food by aggregating small farmers' orders into larger orders.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beverly Dougherty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thank you for your consideration of this funding request.

Beverly Dougherty

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