

March 17th, 2023

Dear Chair Putnam and members of the Senate Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee,

***On behalf of the undersigned organizations, farmers' markets, and farmers, we urge you to support SF2900 (Kunesh).***

Farmers' Markets (FMs) are the quintessential small business incubators of our communities, that allow thousands of farmers and food makers to sell directly to consumers, generate their own income, and nourish their communities. Minnesota has 362+ farmers' markets currently (this is the highest ever and continually more markets are coming online) and these markets generate over \$134.6 million in gross sales annually statewide.

During the Covid-19 pandemic we saw how important short, diversified supply chains were when large-box grocery stores shelves were barren due to supply chain interruptions. Farmers' markets continued to feed and nourish our communities during the pandemic, providing access to fresh, healthy food.

These markets would not run successfully without the support of numerous state and nonprofit partners to provide all the training on food laws, food licenses, farm financial literacy programs, food safety, sales tax on food, etc. for farmers and food makers. This important and critical work is currently funded by securing many different grants that could be alleviated with a one-time grant to each market to undergo food safety training.

These funds would be used to support the sustainability of farmers' market operations:

- Expanding SNAP/EBT to all markets; less than a third of MN farmers' markets can afford to offer SNAP EBT.
  - It is a large cost to the market itself to get this set up (staffing, equipment, legal reporting requirements) and support offering programs like Market Bucks to support low-income families in purchasing fresh, healthy products.
- Scholarships for food safety training for farmers market management and vendors
- Permanent signage for year-round visibility
- Storage structures on location where possible to lessen burden of hauling materials each market
- Crisis management plans and supplies, for example high wind events

Additionally, this bill would create a grant program for direct marketing producers to support their operations and marketing. Direct marketers represent an integral part of our food system within Minnesota, many beginning and emerging farmers sell directly to consumers an array of products from beef, poultry, goat, fresh produce, flowers, fruit, honey, and more. According to the Land Stewardship Project's survey of Farm Beginnings graduates in 2021, 100% sold their products within a 200 miles radius of their farm with a majority selling direct to customers. Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs) and Farmers' Markets are a low risk option for beginning and emerging farmers. Often beginning CSA farmers will establish relationships with future customers through their presence at farmers markets. Ultimately, beginning and emerging farmers need diversified market channels to develop resilient business. Funding for food safety training can prepare emerging and beginning farmers for diversified markets like selling to restaurants or schools. Lastly, funding to help support marketing, on-farm cold storage, establishing SNAP/EBT for their own business and more is an incredible way to boost Minnesota businesses and support farmers in feeding our communities.

A one-time appropriation of \$4 million to Minnesota Farmers' Market Association and \$500,000 for a grant program for direct marketing producers would have an incredible impact for our farmers and communities and go a long way to sustain these important markets into the future and build up market power for Minnesotan farmers.

Sincerely,

Name of Organization, Farmers' Market or Farm	Town
Abdi-Mayfield Farm LLC.	Lindstrom, MN
Alexandria Farmers Market	Alexandria, MN
Allison Schmitt of Allison's Wonderland Acres	Lonsdale, MN
Appetite For Change, West Broadway Farmers Market	Minneapolis, MN

Audubon Farmers Market, Northeast Market Garden & Food Hub	Minneapolis, MN
Aunt Kathy's Kitchen	Rosemount, MN
Barn Swallow Garden	Minneapolis, MN
Benson Farmers Market	Benson, MN
Beyond the Market	St. Paul, MN
Big River Farms/The Food Group	Marine on the St. Croix, MN
Blessings Farm	Minneapolis, MN
Blooming Goodness Farm	Rochester, MN
Bongard's Famers Market	Norwood Young America, MN
Boomflower Farm	Kenyon, MN
Boor Garden Patch	Hutchinson, MN
Boverhof Produce	Edgerton, MN
Bread in the Meadow	Meadowlands, MN
Buller Gardens	Hendricks, MN

Burning Daylight Draft Farm	Kenyon, MN
California Street Farm	Minneapolis, MN
Cambridge Farmers Market	Cambridge, MN
Canby Farmers Market	Canby, MN
Cannon valley Farmers' Market	Faribault, MN
Cannon Valley Grown	Northfield, MN
Cannon River Fiber Farm	Northfield, MN
Carlton County Farmers Market	Cloquet & Carlton, MN
Chatfield Growers Market	Chatfield, MN
Chicken Butt Acres	Glyndon, MN
Clara City Farmers Market	Clara City, MN
Clear Lake Farms	New Ulm, MN
Clover Bee Farm	Shafer, MN
Clover Valley Farms	Duluth, MN
CMC Communications	Minneapolis, MN

Central Minnesota Vegetable Growers Association	Minneapolis, MN
Community Action Duluth	Duluth, MN
Corcoran Neighborhood Organization/ d.b.a Midtown Farmers Market	Minneapolis, MN
Crookston Farmers' Market	Crookston, MN
Dancing Gnome Farm	Wabasha, MN
Davis Farm	Minneapolis, MN
Dawn2Dusk Farms	Cambridge, MN
Dehn's Garden	Andover, MN
Domestic Kneadings/Backus farmers market	Backus, MN
Dragonfly Bay Garlic Company	Hackensack, MN
Duluth Farmers Market	Duluth, MN
Duluth Young Farmers Coalition	Duluth, MN
East Isles Farmers Market	Minneapolis, MN
Eyota Farmers Market	Eyota, MN
Fairhaven Farm	South Haven, MN

Farmer John's Pumpkin Patch	Austin, MN
Fed and Watered, LLC personal chef services	St. Paul, MN
Fergus Falls Farmers Market	Fergus Falls, MN
Finland Farmers Market	Finland, MN
Finland Food Chain	Finland, MN
Fireside Orchard & Gardens	Northfield, MN
Fleet Farm Market St. Cloud	St. Cloud, MN
Floodwood river maple hill gardens	Hibbing, MN
Frechette Farms	Hinckley, MN
Friends to Farms Gardens	Prinsburg, MN
Frog Tree Farm	Wadena, MN
Frozen Cap Mushroom Farm	Rochester, MN
Good Day Farmstead	Nothfield, MN
Good Morgan Foods	Austin, MN
Goodhue Farmers Market	Northfield, MN

Goodtree Farmstead	Northfield, MN
Graise Farm	Faribault, MN
Grand Marais Farmer's Market	Grand Marais, MN
Grand Rapids Farmers market	Grand Rapids, MN
Gray Duck Farms	Pine City, MN
GRE HERC Services, LLC	Minneapolis, MN
Haugdahl Farms	Henning, MN
Heirloomista	North Branch, MN
Hibbing Farmers Market	Hibbing, MN
Holmes City Farmers Market	Holmes City, MN
Hopkins Farmers Market	Hopkins, MN
Hunger Solutions Minnesota	Minneapolis, MN
Hutchinson Farmers Market	Hutchinson, MN
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy	Minneapolis, MN
Kilimo farmers	Cambridge, MN

Kou Her	Hastings, MN
L&R Poultry & Produce	Kenyon, MN
Lakeview Terrace Farmers Market	
Land Stewardship Project	Lewiston, MN
Lee Family Farm	Ramsey, MN
Little Falls Farmers Market	Little Falls, MN
Little Italy Farms	Two Harbors, MN
Lor Family Farm	Nerstrand, MN
Luverne Farmers Market	
MAC's Farm	Kenyon, MN
Madison Lake Farmers Market	
Mankato Farmers Market	
Maple Grove Farmers Market	
Maple Ridge Produce	Aitkin, MN
Martins Garden	Grove City, MN

Middle Fork Farm	Oronocco, MN
Minneapolis Farmers Market	
Minnesota Farmers' Market Association	
MN350	
Minnesota Cottage Food Producers	Big Lake, MN
Molins Meadows Farm	Cambridge, MN
Monticello Farmers Market	
Mora Area Farmers Market	
Mustang Sally BBQ	Marshall, MN
N. Cedar Valley Gardens	Hibbing, MN
Nature's Little Farm, LLC	Cannon Falls, MN
Neighborhood Roots (Kingfield, Fulton, and Nokomis Farmers Markets)	
Nokomis Makers Market	
North Branch Farmers Market	

North Country Farm	Little Fork, MN
North Fork Farms	Mazeppa, MN
Northeast Farmers Market	Minneapolis, MN
Northfield Area Community Solar	Northfield, MN
Northwoods Food Project	Grand Marais, MN
NuLoop Partners	Minneapolis, MN
Painted Ridge Farms II	Granite Falls, MN
Park Rapids Farmers' Market	
Pelican Market	Pelican Rapids, MN
Pillsbury United Communities	
Pluck Flower Farm	Milaca, MN
Pope County Farmers Market	Glenwood, MN
Prairie Drifter Farm	Litchfield, MN
Prosper valley farm	Wykoff, MN
Raise and Relish	Minneapolis, MN

Real Food Inc	Willmar, MN
Red Rock Gardens	Minneapolis, MN
Red Wing Area Farmers Market Association	
Redwing Mushrooms Farm	Redwing, MN
Reeck Family LLC	Saint Paul, MN
Remer Farmers Market	
Renewing the Countryside	
Woodbury Farmers Market	
Richmond MN farmers market	
RJ Webber Organics	Minneapolis, MN
Rochester Farmers Market	
Rockwood Maple Farm	Kilkenny, MN
Rolling Hills Produce	Hamel, MN
Ruhland's Strudel Haus	Saint Paul, MN

Rural Advantage	
Rushford Peterson Valley Farmer's Market	
Rustic Island Farm	Mora, MN
Saint Paul Farmers' Market	
Saint Pops LLC	Minneapolis, MN
Sartell Farmers Market	
Sauk Rapids Market	
Seeds farm	Northfield, MN
Seeds to stars flower farm	Northfield, MN
Seeds to Stars Flower Farm	Kenyon, MN
Sharing Our Roots Farm	Northfield, MN
Simple Harvest Farm	Nerstrand, MN
SNAP-Ed, Wadena County	
So Below Apothecary	Nerstrand, MN
St Cloud Area Farmers Market	

St Paul Farmers Market	
St. Luke's Farmers' Market	
Stone Hearth Farm & Garden	Madelia, MN
Mankato Farmers' Market	Mankato
The Bee Shed, LLC	Rochester, MN
The Gothic Farmstead	Scandia, MN
The Little Market That Could   Smoke Signals	Prior Lake, MN
The Neighborhood market	Prior Lake, MN
The Saucy Mamma	Isanti, MN
The Trout Monger	Forest Lake, MN
The Village Agricultural Cooperative Farmers' Market	Rochester, MN
Tower Farmers Market	Tower
Trailhead Farm	North Branch, MN
Trumpeter Swan Farm	Buffalo, MN
Tuttie Fruitties	Marine on St Croix, MN

Victoria Sweets	Victoria, MN
Virginia Farmers Market Hub	Virginia, MN
VIVANDU Farm	
W.T. Farms	Northfield, MN
Wabasha Area Food Share	Wabasha, MN
Wabasha Farmers Market Hub	Wabasha, MN
Wadena Farmers Market	Newport, MN
Walker Brook Gardens	Bagley, MN
Waxwing Farm	Webster, MN
West Central Initiative	Fergus Falls, MN
White Stag Farm	Isanti, MN
Whitewater Gardens Farm	Winona, MN
Williams Farm	Raymond, MN
Winona Farmers Market	Winona, MN
Yum Microgreens	Minneapolis, MN

Loon Organics Farm	Hutchinson, MN
Tomte Grove	Rochester, MN
Sunrise Garden	Newport, MN
Albany Local Farmers Market	Albany, MN
Early Boots Farm LLC	Sauk Centre, MN
The Salsa Collaborative LLC	Minneapolis, MN
Cannon Valley Farmers' Market	Faribault, MN