



3/29/23

Chair Pappas and committee members
Capital Investment Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Re: Feeding Frogtown's support for SF 2148, animal care campus funding

Chair Pappas and committee members,

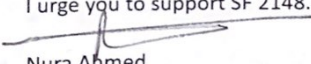
I am writing on behalf of Feeding Frogtown, a food distribution program created by the Frogtown Neighborhood Association (EIN 41-0963444) in St. Paul, to express our strong support for SF 2148 (Oumou Verbeten). This bill provides funding to Animal Humane Society for the construction of an animal care campus in St. Paul. I urge your support of SF 2148 when it is heard in your committee.

Founded in 1970, the Frogtown Neighborhood Association (District 7) was originally named, and is still legally, the Thomas-Dale District 7 Planning Council. We are a small, not-for-profit, community-based organization serving the neighborhoods of East Midway, Frogtown, Capitol Heights, and Mt. Airy. Our efforts are focused on civic engagement and resident empowerment. We function as a neighborhood-level point of contact regarding various city processes, as well as for addressing issues identified by community residents and/or businesses. Our funding comes from contracts for service, foundation grants, and individual and corporate donations.

The Frogtown Neighborhood Association operates a community food shelf through our Feeding Frogtown Program. We provide hyper-fresh produce to the 200+ families we serve, week in and week out. Due to our partnership with Animal Humane Society, our program also provides free pet food for community members and their pets. This service is important because it keeps people and pets together and it prevents people who are already food insecure from sacrificing their health for the health of their pets. The need for this support is significant and growing. Over 5,000 pounds of cat and dog food were distributed in 2021, and this amount doubled in 2022 to over 10,000 pounds. We have great hope for future partnering towards Animal onsite clinics during our Food distributions.

Animal Humane Society's animal care campus will create an important community amenity that serves the needs not only of our community in St. Paul but also the region. The new animal care campus will allow Animal Humane Society to expand its services to Minnesotans in need, such as providing free pet food, low cost veterinary care, and temporary pet housing for people facing homelessness. Minnesotans consider pets a member of their family. The partnerships between Animal Humane Society and local organizations such as ours helps meet community needs and keep families together.

I urge you to support SF 2148. Thank you.


Nura Ahmed
Feeding Frogtown Coordinator
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<http://www.frogtownmn.org/>

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