



## MINNESOTA FARMERS' MARKET ASSOCIATION

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Chair Murphy, Members of the MN Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Committee,

The Minnesota Farmers' Market Association strongly supports the Healthy Eating, Here At Home bill, S.F. 1927 – better known to us as “Market Bucks.”

MFMA is the statewide association that supports the record-high number of 362+ farmers' markets in Minnesota. We develop curriculum and train market management and the 10,000 or so vendors who produce and make food across the state on food safety, food laws and licensing, sales tax on foods, SNAP EBT, WIC, etc.

About 1/3 of our markets can afford to offer SNAP EBT – and the accompanying Market Bucks is a huge boon to those communities, stretching food dollars for the eaters and sustainability for the food producers. As we find grants to help more markets offer SNAP EBT, the need for increased dollars in Market Bucks follows. Adding direct marketing farmers to Market Bucks strengthens Minnesota's local foodshed even more.

Public investment in Minnesota's local foodshed has an incredibly high ROI for all Minnesotans and works at decreasing the systemic inequity in Minnesota agriculture.

Thank you for accepting our testimony. We urge you to support and fully fund this Market Bucks legislation.

Sincerely,

Kathy Zeman  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Farmers' Market Association

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### MISSION

MFMA provides services, programs, and leadership that support and promote farmers' markets across Minnesota.