

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Agricultural Marketing and Development Appropriation Modification bill (Bill #3404) currently under consideration. This bill, which proposes a technical change to the previous legislation allocating \$200,000 over two years to assist markets in implementing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), holds immense promise for our community and its farmers' markets.

As Holly Bustle, Market Manager & Volunteer of Chanhassen Farmers Market, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of SNAP accessibility on our community's food landscape. The proposed broadening of grant usage to encompass a wider range of eligible expenses beyond infrastructure is a welcome and much-needed enhancement. This modification will undoubtedly bolster our efforts to ensure equitable access to fresh, nutritious food for all members of our community.

Access to SNAP benefits is not just a matter of convenience; it is a fundamental necessity for many individuals and families in our community. It's clear that SNAP plays a crucial role in addressing food insecurity and promoting public health. However, despite its significance, we have encountered challenges in recruiting volunteers to administer the program effectively.

The proposed modification to include a broader range of eligible expenses will alleviate the strain on volunteer resources and streamline the implementation and improvement of SNAP at our farmers' market. By easing administrative burdens and expanding the scope of eligible expenses, this bill will make SNAP more accessible to communities across [Carver County, Chanhassen, MN], paving the way for a healthier, more food-secure future for generations to come.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider this letter as a formal endorsement of the Agricultural Marketing and Development Appropriation Modification bill. The passage of this bill will not only strengthen our local farmers' market but also empower our community to combat food insecurity and promote equitable access to nutritious food. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Keep Life Fresh,
Holly Bustle

Holly Bustle | Farmers Market Coordinator
City of Chanhassen