



MINNESOTA MILK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

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February 29, 2024

Dear Chair Kunesh and Members of the Education Finance Committee:

The Minnesota Milk Producers Association thanks you for the opportunity to provide input on SF3912 - *Free school milk with lunch meal authorized for students who bring lunch from home, and money appropriated*. Dairy farmers strongly believe that milk provides students in Minnesota with balanced and sustainable nutrition, and therefore we support SF 3912.

We know that students with different dietary needs, preferences or changes of plans will come to school with lunch but still prefer the great taste of milk. Milk has grown from 9 to 13 essential vitamins and minerals in the U.S. diet over the past decade – not because anything in milk has changed, but because the U.S. diet continues to lack important nutrition. Therefore, we thank Senator Gustafson and others for bringing it forward.

Further, dairy is likely one of the most sustainable nutrition devices available to our bodies when we consider nutrient density – there are not many foods that can provide the diverse nutrition offerings in such a calorie package.

Students bringing lunch from home may desire and/or need these nutrients, and dairy farmers are proud to create the product that can fulfill that need. We urge you also to support SF 3912.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucas Sjostrom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucas" and last name "Sjostrom" clearly distinguishable.

Lucas Sjostrom
Minnesota Milk Executive Director

Advancing the Success of Minnesota Dairy Farms