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Dear Members of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee,

As a VoCul Instructor and owner of Minneapolis Meat Collective, I am writing to express my strong support for the Culinary Workforce Development Bill (S.F. 5181), which seeks crucial funding for the Healthy Roots Institute (HRI). This initiative is pivotal for the continuation and expansion of HRI's impactful work in our community, including the esteemed VoCul program.

The significance of this initiative cannot be overstated. It promises not only to enrich individuals with vital skills for the culinary industry but also to sow seeds of economic resilience and social cohesion within our community.

My personal experience with VoCul is that it is one of a kind and offers vital professional and culinary development for those in the food industry. This bill would not only benefit the future of Healthy Roots Institute but it would also bolster a need for more robust programs like VoCul.

I strongly urge your support for this initiative, confident in its capacity to make a lasting, positive impact on the lives of many and the culinary landscape of our state.

Thank you for considering this support. Together, we can contribute to a vibrant future for our community, marked by prosperity, inclusivity, and culinary excellence.

Sincerely,

Theresa Cecka Parks
Minneapolis, MN