



THE GOOD ACRE
FOOD + COMMUNITY

February 18, 2025

Re: The Minnesota Farm to Food Shelf Appropriation SF 629

Dear Chair Putnam and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of The Good Acre, Minnesota's largest nonprofit food hub, I write in strong support of SF 629, which would sustain a vital program that has already helped procure food from nearly 150 small farmers across the state since 2020.

Our mission is to unlock economic opportunity for farmers through personalized support and market development. Through our wholesale readiness initiative, the Local Economic Accelerator for Farmers (LEAFF), we combine technical assistance with market access to help small and emerging specialty crop farmers build essential skills like food-safe post-harvest handling, crop planning, labeling, and invoicing. This program provides an entry point into wholesale markets, preparing farmers for long-term success.

A key benefit of this program is that the food grown as part of LEAFF goes directly to food banks and hunger relief organizations that need it most. This dual impact, supporting farmers while increasing access to fresh, local food for those experiencing food insecurity, makes it a critical investment in Minnesota's food system.

With sustained funding, more farmers will be equipped to enter wholesale partnerships, strengthening local economies, revitalizing rural communities, and improving food access statewide. This initiative aligns with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's mission to ensure a strong agricultural economy and a secure, high-quality food supply for all Minnesotans.

We urge your support for SF 629 to sustain and expand this impactful program. Thank you for your consideration.

Kindly,
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