

March 20, 2025

Chair Putnam
Senate Agriculture Committee
Room 1150, MN Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) (SF2430)

Dear Chair Putnam and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

We write to express our strong support for SF2430 to replace future funding for the Local Food Purchasing Assistance program (LFPA). Organizations statewide have relied on this funding to establish wholesale agreements with farmers, providing a stable market for beginning and underserved farmers. Continuing this program will ensure that commitments to new and emerging farmers are honored.

Farmers in Minnesota already navigate a range of unpredictable challenges—from weather events and fluctuating input costs to rising land values, disease pressures, and volatile markets. When farmers enter into agreements with the government, they should be able to trust that those commitments will be honored.

For many beginning and underserved producers, market development opportunities have historically been out of reach. This program addresses that gap by offering a stable market to farmers who are often overlooked by other federal and state programs. LFPA partnerships help fill that gap, providing a much-needed source of financial stability during the high-risk early years of farming.

In addition to supporting farmers, the program improves access to fresh, healthy foods for underserved communities across Minnesota. We urge you to prioritize this important program and ensure that Minnesota's farmers continue to receive the support they need.

Thank you for your consideration,

Climate Land Leaders (CLL)
Compeer Financial
Land Stewardship Project (LSP)
Minnesota Farmers Market Association (MFMA)
Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU)
Neighborhood Roots
Organic Consumers Association
Prairie Rose Agricultural Institute for Research, Innovation & Education
The Conservation Fund

The Food Group
The Finland Food Chain
The Good Acre (TGA)
The Nature Conservancy
The Village Agricultural Cooperative
Red Wing Farmers Market
Renewing the Countryside (RTC)
Sprout
Sustainable Farming Association (SFA) of Minnesota