



Dr. Valentine Cadieux
Learning Coordinator, Twin Cities Community Agricultural Land Trust
Director of the Center for Justice and Law, Hamline University

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Subject: Letter of Support for revision of statute 273.13, subdivision 23, on Agricultural classification of land

Many urban and near-urban farmers, and many farmers who do not inherit generational farms that qualify for agricultural land clarification by being larger than 10 acres, have been kept from qualifying for supports such as the Green Acres tax program that helps preserve land in farming and support farmers.

In our work with farmers, land access and tenure are consistently the most significant problems -- and maintaining tenure to land for farming while paying commercial land taxes is a major reason many farmers can't make their operations work. This revision helps provide a pathway for serious market farmers to qualify for the supports already available to farmers with more land.

This could help preserve and encourage more small farms, and provide the "starter home" equivalent for farmland for many farmers.

Sincerely,

K. Valentine Cadieux
Twin Cities Community Agricultural Land Trust
tcalt.org, PO Box 21004 Minneapolis, MN 55421