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Chair Vang and members of the committee,

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony today in support of HF 2562. This bill provides critical funding opportunities to small to medium-sized meat and poultry processors to provide employee training.

As we have begun our Meat Cutting and Butchery program at Central Lakes College (CLC), we have received numerous phone calls from small to medium-sized meat and poultry processors or entrepreneurs that are looking to start or expand a meat cutting business. One of the largest hurdles for these individuals is finding trained, qualified employees.

These startups or expansions also take a great deal of capital. A large percentage of new businesses fail within the first three years, largely due to cash flow problems. Providing these grants helps to ease the cash flow by allowing for employee training to assist the business. The tuition for the Meat Cutting and Butchery program at CLC is a little under \$3,500 for a 16 credit certificate. This presents challenges to students wanting to enter the meat cutting workforce as well as business startups that want to train employees. These grants allow for workforce training and development.

These grants also allow for continued professional development as both CLC and Ridgewater College offer meat cutting programs and are looking to create additional, stackable certificates. HF 2562 would also support CLC and Ridgewater College collaborating with small to medium-sized meat and poultry processors to find and develop a workforce.

In closing, I support HF 2562 and would stand to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for allowing me to show my support today.

Sincerely,

Cory Detloff, Director  
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