

Letter of Support

Letter of Support presented before the Minnesota House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy on March 13, 2023

Regarding: Letter of Support for HF1057 and HF1361

Thank you Chair Vang, Vice-Chair Pursell, and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to provide this letter of support today.

Our Food Systems Team at MN350 represents community members in the twin cities who are fighting for a better food system that serves all people, and does not contribute to the existential threat of climate change. We enthusiastically support the development of a thriving agricultural economy in Minnesota and HF1057 and HF1361 contribute to that vision.

HF1057, which provides down payment assistance grant funding is critical to help lower the cost barrier to entry for farming. As half of this designated money is committed to assist emerging farmers, this funding would be critical for supporting the next generation of farmers in Minnesota. Similarly, HF 1361 would direct additional funds to small or emerging farmers. This bill will provide funding to financial institutions that participate in distribution of these much needed grants to fund access to capital, land and new markets. We strongly urge you to support these bills, they provide support for an agricultural economy in Minnesota that is equitable, accessible to new farmers and supports land transfer from farmer to farmer in coming years.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Mia Farinas
Food Systems Organizer
MN350 Action