



Food for today. Change for tomorrow.

February 22, 2023

Dear Chair Vang, Vice-Chair Pursell, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to request your support for HF 1744 which includes funding for The Good Acre's LEAFF program. I work at The Food Group, a food equity organization located in New Hope. For over 45 years, we have been providing nutritious and quality foods to people in more than 30 counties. We believe that food for today is change for tomorrow. We partner with The Good Acre to distribute the LEAFF produce to our network of over 200 food shelves and meal programs.

Investing in LEAFF ensures that more fresh produce grown by emerging farmers in Minnesota would make it to our emergency food system. By connecting more emerging farmers to the hunger relief supply chain we can get more fresh, healthy, and culturally relevant crops to our clients. And these products are some of the most requested items from food shelf participants.

Supporting HF 1744 will help make sure more food from here is for here. It lays a framework that will help strengthen the local food system and ensure that farmers of color have the market access they need to run a sustainable farm business. It also will help to make sure our most vulnerable citizens have access to the very best of Minnesota's bountiful harvest.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sophia Lenarz-Coy
Executive Director
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