

February 22, 2022

Representative Mike Sundin
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298

Chair Sundin, and members of the House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee:

I hope you will support HF 3264, a bill for an act relating to agriculture; establishing a micro farm premium assistance program; appropriating money for grants and technical assistance.

This bill would allocate \$300,000 for small grants to farmers in Minnesota. It would also give money to a long-time product vendor of ours at Seward Co-op, Hmong American Farmers Association (HAFA), and to the Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC), a well-known community development financial institution. Both HAFA and LEDC support technical assistance to farmers on the micro farm risk management program and the micro farm premium assistance program.

I currently serve as General Manager at Seward Community Cooperative in Minneapolis. We operate two full-service grocery stores and a production kitchen. Founded in 1972, Seward Co-op is now owned by more than 22,000 community members. We provide locally grown organic produce, locally raised meats, prepared foods, and more. The co-op's mission is to *sustain a healthy community that has equitable economic relationships; positive environmental impacts; and inclusive, socially responsible practices*. As a cooperatively owned food business, we strongly believe small-scale farmers need continuing support in order to manage and grow their operations. Food co-ops depend on reliable produce from small-scale farms in Minnesota. Monetary support of programs like those cited in HF 3264 builds a sustainable and equitable agricultural landscape for Minnesota.

I am proud to uplift HAFA and LEDC through our collaboration with [MinneAg](#) this legislation session. I encourage you to read about MinneAg's policy priorities online, and again, please offer your support to HF 3264.

In cooperation,



Sean Doyle
General Manager
Seward Community Cooperative
612-465-0888
sdoyle@seward.coop
www.seward.coop