



MINNESOTA FARMERS' MARKET ASSOCIATION
9800 155th Street East, Nerstrand MN 55053
www.mfma.org ✦ info@mfma.org ✦ (507) 664-9446

April 6, 2021

Chair Sundin, Committee members:

My name is Kathy Zeman, executive director of the MN Farmers' Market Association, owner of Simple Harvest Farm just south of Northfield in Rice County, a registered cottage food producer – and a former licensed dog treat seller in MN.

I am writing to encourage you to add H.F. 2014 to the omnibus bill. This bill was introduced late in session due to a drafting backlog. It was heard in the Senate right after it was introduced, there is agreement with MDA on the bill, MDA supports the bill moving forward, and it was included in the Senate agriculture finance omnibus bill.

BACKGROUND

Currently, pet food licenses in MN are all set at a commercial level. Before a person may distribute a pet food or specialty pet food in the state, a listing of each product and a label must be submitted annually for products which are distributed **only** in packages of ten pounds or less. The label must follow the requirements in Minnesota Statute 1510.2510; and that requires you to submit a sample of your pet food to a lab (approximate fee \$40) to get guaranteed analysis statements of various nutrients, like protein, fat, fiber, ash, moisture. The license is \$100 annually. (If your pet food packages are more than 10 pounds, you have to pay a tonnage fee, which is either 16 cents a ton or \$75 – whichever is greater.)

After the passage of the 2015 Cottage Food Law, it quickly became apparent that some current cottage food producers, who were now registering with MDA as cottage food producers, were listing pet treats as one of their products, which immediately sent them to the commercial feed division at MDA, which identified the problem that the commercial license was just not appropriate for small scale pet treat vendors. So, we worked with MDA to create this Pet Treat Bill language.

It's a good bill for our farmers' market vendors, and we support it. It will help reduce needless red tape for our vendors and cottage food producers. We ask for your support. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Kathy Zeman
Executive Director
Minnesota Farmers' Market Association

MISSION

MFMA provides services, programs and leadership that support and promote farmers' markets across Minnesota.