

Marita Bujold
info@justfoodandwater.org
651-646-0851

Letter in support of HF4120 - **Farm to School & Early Care Bill**

To: Representative Todd Lippert and members of the Agriculture Committee

I am writing to offer unqualified support for HF4120. With the additional funding outlined for this bill, schools and early care providers will be able to enroll in the popular Farm to School program. We know that this program is mutually beneficial to the schools and children it serves and the producers in our local communities.

With continuing issues with supply chains, Minnesota will benefit enormously from investing in generating our capacity to source and preserve food in a locally adapted, sustainable economy designed to provide a foundation for a robust, resilient regional economy. Farm to School is a key component of that economy. With resources and markets to support their operations, local farmers can produce the healthy sources of food we need.

With respect, I would like to share a story relevant to your decision that I learned recently when researching the history of food in northern Minnesota.

In the 1920's and 1930's, the Hibbing schools operated a 70-acre farm that provided the food needed to feed the school's population of children (largely from immigrant families) with food to spare. *It was part of a successful regional food system intentionally organized and supported financially to ensure food security for the population.*

Unfortunately, the land was appropriated for building a hospital in the 1930's. But while the farm operated it proved a reliable source of healthy food.

Thank you for supporting HF4120 and our schools and our children.
Marita Bujold