

March 28, 2023

Chair Klevorn and Members of the Committee,

We are writing today to thank you for the inclusion of the increase in funding and expansion of the Healthy Eating Here at Home program, otherwise known as Market Bucks, in the Omnibus State and Local Government Finance and Policy Bill.

All Minnesotans deserve access to fresh, affordable, local foods. Market Bucks makes these foods accessible to low-income Minnesotans by matching SNAP spending at farmers markets. This funding comes at a vital time to reduce food insecurity in our state with the recent ending of SNAP emergency allotments and high inflation in food prices. Many low-income families will continue to rely on Market Bucks to help stretch their budgets at local farmers markets.

Market Bucks are a win-win-win for Minnesota:

- Customers win by being able to stretch their buying power at farmers markets, making fresh, local food more affordable for low-income residents.
- Farmers win by bringing in new customers.
- Communities win with increased local economic activity, a stronger sense of community, and healthier people.

By expanding Market Bucks, we can continue to reduce food insecurity, sustain our farms, and improve the health of our residents in Minnesota.

Thank you for your leadership to ensure the Market Bucks program continues to make a critical impact around the state.

Sincerely,



Executive Director, Hunger Solutions Minnesota