



4407 E Lake St, Minneapolis, MN 55406

Testimony

Testimony presented before the Minnesota House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy on February 28, 2023

Regarding: Testimony in Support of HF1316

Thank you Chair Vang, Vice-Chair Pursell, and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to provide this written testimony today.

Our Food Systems Team at MN350 represents community members in the twin cities, who are deeply concerned about the impacts of conventional agricultural practices on climate change, as well as water quality and loss of topsoil. We are fighting for a better food system that serves all people, and does not contribute to the existential threat of climate change. We enthusiastically support HF1316 and view the implementation of healthy soil practices as an essential step in mitigating climate change.

As the state of Minnesota takes great strides to address climate through our energy policy, we urge you to address agriculture and its impact on climate. In 2020, the EPA estimated that agriculture contributes 11.2% of our country's greenhouse gas emissions. It is essential that we take on carbon in our food system, and the implementation of soil health practices across our farms in Minnesota is an important step in this process. Healthy soil management provides carbon sequestration that mitigates climate change. Additionally, it resolves a host of environmental problems that conventional agriculture contributes to – protecting water quality in our waterways and building top soil. Farmers are on the front lines of the climate crisis, and are facing changing weather and financial stress. We urge you to provide financial support for farmers who are taking on sustainable and regenerative farming practices, and make the benefits of healthy soil practices a reality in our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Mia Farinas
Food Systems Organizer
MN350 Action