March 23, 2022

Dear Committee Chair Rep. Mohamud Noor and Vice Chair Rep. Jay Xiong of the Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee,

Thank you for providing valuable leadership for the  [Headwaters Community Food and Water Bill](https://www.justfoodandwater.org/headwaters-bill) ([HF1332](https://www.justfoodandwater.org/headwaters-bill-status-house)/[SF1580](https://www.justfoodandwater.org/headwaters-bill-status-senate)).

*With continuing concerns about supply chain disruptions, extreme weather events, and enduring food insecurity, leadership to create a responsive, just, and sustainable food economy is urgent.*

In our work at The Food Group, we see every day how the lack of an equitable local food economy leads to so many challenges for food and land access. This means that many Minnesotans are unable to fully participate in a food system that works for their families.

Operating the source-to-table food web economy created by the Headwaters Bill would provide urban, rural, and suburban communities with a powerful tool to be climate resilient, food secure, and to prepare for and manage emergencies.

The design and purpose of the decentralized, coordinated food web economy aligns with the values and objectives outlined by the **House Climate Action Plan** and the **Minnesota Climate Action Framework**and the report to the legislature by **the House Select Committee on Racial Justice.**

Investments from the $1billion fund for the Minnesota Climate Action Framework would provide crucial economic infrastructure to create and operate a robust, responsive, food web economy as a foundation for resilient regional economies.

With respect, I ask you to present the case together with your colleagues to invest those funds to create the food web economy outlined by the Headwaters Bill.

Sincerely,

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Sophia Lenarz-Coy

Executive Director