

Roots Return Heritage Farm LLC



Carver, MN

E-Mail: rootsreturn@gmail.com

Date: March 14, 2023

To: Minnesota State House Members, Agricultural Policy & Finance Committee, Chair Vang, Vice Chair Pursell

RE: Support for HF 1057 (Vang) Ag Down Payment Assistance

Greetings Chair Vang and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my support of this bill. I farm and lease land to food farmers in Carver County. Although I own my own farm land, I am fully aware of the difficulties farmers everywhere have across Minnesota when they look to purchase existing farmland, fallow land, plots and properties with homes.

For the 2023 production season I entered into a partnership with Big River Farms to pilot a 'next phase' approach to their education and incubation of food farmers. This enables farmers with a few to several years of farming experience to take their next steps towards independence, the hope to eventually obtain their own land and operations. Many times these people are of varying ages and backgrounds, with differing means to sustain income and families through full-time and part-time work all the while honing their agricultural business skills. This has been challenging for many when making that next step towards land and property purchases.

This bill will help enable producers throughout Minnesota a safety net to pursue their agricultural transition quicker, and get operations moving ahead before and during their next growing season.

Your **YES** vote on this bill will ensure we have more food farmers across all regions of Minnesota. I humbly ask for your support.

Thank you.

Lori D. Cox, owner
Roots Return Heritage Farm LLC