

February 25, 2019

Minnesota State Legislature  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Subject: Farm to School Bill**

Dear Minnesota Representatives and Senators,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge you to support and vote "yes" on the Farm to School & Early Care Bills, H.F. 811 (Lippert) & S.F. 1346 (Goggin).

We believe in Farm to School because of its unique benefits. It's good for kids. It's good for farmers. It's good for local communities.

Farm to School is good for our kids because it gives them access to and knowledge of healthy local foods. The link between the food kids eat and their educational and health outcomes is becoming increasingly clear. Access to fresh, healthy food, starting as young as possible, fuels brain development and shapes food preference over a lifetime.

Farm to School is good for farmers. Farmers growing foods for their local communities is a rapidly growing important area of Minnesota agriculture that needs public support and investment to expand markets.

Farm to School gives farmers a large, stable, predictable market that they can plan for in advance. It also allows them to grow value added crops that boost the bottom line and keep more families living on and caring for the land

Farm to School is good for local economies. A study out of Oregon showed that for every dollar spent on Farm to School programs, \$2.16 is generated in additional economic activity for the local economy. The Farm to School bill would not only support farmers directly, it would also give small businesses and entrepreneurs in Greater Minnesota a boost in revitalizing their communities

This Farm to School & Early Care bill is a worthy investment that works for the health of our children, the health of our family farms and the health of our local communities. Minnesotans can easily agree that this makes sense for our state to support a statewide a farm to school program through our public support and public investment.

Please support and vote "yes" on the Farm to School & Early Care bills.

Sincerely,

Aitkin County Health & Human Services  
Alice Smith Elementary

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American Heart Association  
Anishinaabe Agriculture Institute  
Appetite For Change Inc.  
Appetite for Change/Northside Fresh Coalition  
Bemidji, ISD #31  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota  
Cannon River Chapter - Sustainable Farming Association  
Civic League Day Nursery  
Communication Workers of America MN State Council  
Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties - Head Start  
CURE (Clean Up the River Environment)  
Dover Eyota Public Schools  
Education Minnesota  
Feeling Good MN - Powered by CentraCare Health  
Hearts & Minds Preschool  
Highland Park Montessori School  
Hmong American Farmers Association  
Honor the Earth  
Hopkins Public Schools  
Hunger Solutions Minnesota  
Independent School District 0051 - Foley Public Schools  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis  
Lakes Country Service Cooperative  
Lakeville Friends of the Environment  
Land Stewardship Project  
League of Women Voters Minnesota  
Life Time Foundation  
Little Falls Community Schools  
Main Street Alliance  
Mankato Area Environmentalists  
Minneapolis Public Schools  
Minnesota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Minnesota Cancer Alliance  
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
Minnesota Farmers Union  
Minnesota Farmers' Market Association  
Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture  
Minnesota Public Health Association  
Minnesota School Garden Coalition

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Minnesota School Nutrition Association  
Neighborhood House  
Pesticide Action Network North America  
Playhouse Child Care Center  
Providers Choice  
Renewing the Countryside  
Saint Paul Federation of Educators  
Save Our Sky Blue Waters  
School district 196  
School Nutrition Directors of Minnesota Group  
SEMMCHRA  
Shared Ground Farmers' Cooperative  
Sierra Club North Star Chapter  
SNAP-Ed Wadena County  
Sprout Food Hub  
St. Cloud Reach Up Head Start Program  
TakeAction Minnesota  
The Farm on St. Mathias  
The Food Group Minnesota Inc.  
The Good Acre  
Tri Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.  
University of Minnesota Extension  
Wabasha Farmers Market  
Waconia Public School District  
Westbrook Walnut Grove School  
Wilderness in the City  
Youth Farm