

100%

100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
Saint Paul, MN 55114
www.100percentmn.org

March 27, 2022

Chair Noor and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to share our support for **Rep. Kaohly Her's House File 1332**.

This bill would support one of our state's most urgently needed transitions using a comprehensive, public-facing approach that would engage Minnesotans across the state.

Minnesota's weather is already changing due to our warming climate. As our state makes this transition we will need to prepare for and adapt to these changes by building resilience in many of our key systems, energy, finance, transportation, etc. Our food system is no different. **Minnesota ought to take a future-focused approach to making sure we increase our ability to produce, distribute, and sell locally grown and raised foods.**

Rep. Her's bill would create and fund a program to support a locally adapted food economy in Minnesota. It would do so by establishing the Headwaters Community Food and Water Economic Resiliency Program, a new program at the Department of Employment and Economic Development focused on relating our state's approaches to transitioning our food system, protecting our water, and mitigating and preparing for climate change. The Commissioner would do this work in collaboration with many of our state's key food system stakeholders: rural and urban farmers, neighborhood-based food providers, restaurateurs, researchers, and public health officials.

This approach, the creation of a Headwaters Community Food and Water Economic Resiliency Advisory Committee, would help ensure this transition delivers tangible co-benefits for Minnesotans. By engaging stakeholders and acting systemically, **we can make sure Minnesotans get healthier food, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and a more equitable economy.** For example, in 2020, the House Select Committee on Racial Justice recommended this program as one of the key environmental justice initiatives that would "address intentional and unintentional systemic disparities and inequities based on race".

Please support the transition to more equitable local food systems by supporting House File 1332.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Chris Conry
Campaign Director

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