

## Steven Krikava

5417 Malibu Dr.  
Edina, MN 55436

Mobile: 952.261.2848  
SPKrikava@msn.com  
<http://www.linkedin.com/in/stevenkrikava>

18 March 2022

Committee on Agricultural Finance and Policy  
House of Representatives  
417 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Sundlin and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HF4120, introduced by Rep. Lippert. The bill will increase the amount of funding for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Farm to School grants from \$800,000 to \$1.6 million. The proposed increase is in response to demand that far exceeds available funding and gets closer to fully funding all schools to buy local if they choose. Furthermore, the bill would expand eligibility to include early care providers, making fresh healthy foods available to young children as they develop their taste preferences and eating habits.

I grew up on a commercial scale crop farm in southern Minnesota and spent my career working in the food and agricultural industry. After retiring in 2013, I got active in anti-hunger advocacy. I serve on the Board of Hunger Solutions of Minnesota and am active in the Partners to End Hunger Coalition. I have a strong personal interest in supporting legislation that will support local farmers and promote more resilience in our food system.

The Farm to School program in Minnesota has proven its popularity and success. This is demonstrated by the fact that there is greater demand for grants under the program than the current funding level can accommodate. As a state, we should provide increased funding to programs like Farm to School that have shown that they effectively achieve public policy goals.

The increased funding for Farm to School is a sound investment in improved child nutrition and support for local farmers. I urge you to support passage of HR4120.

Thank you,

