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

Chairman Sundlin and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HF3264, micro farm premium assistance program, introduced by vice-chair Vang.

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.

There are many reasons to support this bill. It will provide much-needed support to small-scale farmers, will help new farmers get a foothold in food production, and will promote increased diversity in Minnesota's farming sector.

But from my experience, one of the main reasons to support the bill is that it will promote greater resilience within our farm sector. One of the lessons that we should have learned from the coronavirus pandemic is that our agricultural systems need greater resilience to respond to disruptions caused by disease or extreme weather events or economic volatility. Small farmers (micro farmers in the context of this bill) are not immune to those disruptions. But by virtue of being small-scale, they are generally more nimble and can make quicker adjustments in response to disruptions.

The assistance provided by this bill will help small scale farmers get established as successful participants in our state's food and ag sector. I urge the Committee's support of this bill.

Thank you.

