**2022 Legislative Session**

**Food, Farm, and Hunger Initiative**

Dear **[senator or representative’s name]**,

My name is **[insert your name]** and I am one of your constituents from **[insert city and/or county]**. I am writing to ask you to support the complete and intact $24 million dollar Executive Budget recommendation for the Food, Farm, and Hunger Initiative in HB 2. Nearly 250 New Mexicans from across the state worked together to craft the executive budget recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year and beyond. Every dollar of this investment is critical to strengthening New Mexico’s food system.

Before COVID, New Mexico had one of the highest food insecurity rates in the country. The COVID pandemic made food insecurity worse. We have the land and farming knowledge to feed ourselves, care for our own, and make real progress towards improving healthy food access for people in our state, especially children and seniors. The Food, Farm, and Hunger Initiative represents a long-term investment in a food system that can support a healthy workforce and a resilient economy in New Mexico. It will benefit all our communities by immediately providing food to hungry families and supporting New Mexico’s farmers, ranchers, and food businesses, creating a win-win for all.

***[Give an example of how local farming has improved food access in your community or an example of how the FFI investment would improve food access in your community.] An example could look like:* “**Over the past few years our school district received NM Grown funding from the Public Education Department and has been purchasing produce from (name of farm). I love supporting our local farmers and teaching the children about where their food comes from. We wish there were more farmers in our community so we could buy a bigger variety of produce.”

I join in asking you to prioritize and support the complete and intact Food, Farm, and Hunger Initiative in the Executive Budget recommendation. Healthy food and healthy food access is a basic human right. At the same time, hunger and food insecurity have not improved in generations. Now is the time to continue investing in the long term growth of our food system.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

Address

City, State, Zip

email