



Salvation Farms, Inc.
PO Box 1174
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February 26, 2023

Dear Chairman Starr,

Thank you for the invitation to testify before your committee on Salvation Farms behalf on March 1st. I hope that my testimony will be informative, engaging, and thought-provoking.

I prepare this letter to formally request the Senate Committee on Agriculture recommend Salvation Farms for a one-time allocation of \$500,000. These funds will advance Vermont's use of farm surplus crops for the short and long-term benefit of Vermont's farms and eaters - serving to build more reliability and resiliency in our state's food system.

Vermont produces an abundance of nutritious crops (approx. 14.3 million pounds) that could easily feed more of our state's residents, specifically those who rely on charitable/supplemental food programs or institutions like prisons and schools.

Salvation Farms gleans and supports others who glean. However, the amount of surplus that can be moved into community-based, charitable food sites through gleaning is limited. These sites, just like any other market, get saturated and can only take so much perishable food.

In response, Salvation Farms has developed strategies to use more of Vermont's surplus crops through efforts that aggregate, clean, process, package, and broker - handling crops that are at volumes or in conditions outside the ability of gleaning efforts and their communities to use. These strategies can reach beyond charity to serve institutions too. Vermont must invest in infrastructure to increase processing capacity that extends shelf-life and shelf-stability of our state's surplus crops.

Using more of what local farms produce should be fundamental to our thinking about local resiliency and local food system development. A model surplus crop processing facility can lead to replication in Vermont. On behalf of Salvation Farms, I respectfully request \$500,000 in one-time funding from the State of Vermont to support our building of a facility to anchor and scale surplus crop processing to serve Vermont's charitable and institutional food programs.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. I look forward to receiving your follow-up.

Theresa Snow
Executive Director