

Hello

My name is Elyse Perambo; I live in Richford and am the Farm-to-School Manager for Green Mountain Farm-to-School (GMFTS), in Newport. I am also one of the leads for the Educational Value working group within the Vermont Farm-to-School Network. At GMFTS I support the Farm-to-School programs in 14 different schools serving over 2250 students in the Northeast Kingdom (NEK).

Thank you for taking the time today to read my request to ask you to please support the Governor's proposal for level funding for both the Farm to School Grant program and the Local Foods Incentive, at \$500k each.

In the current times and with weather fluctuations, the Farm to School & Early Childhood program helps create stability and resilience in Vermont by connecting students and educators to the local agricultural community. The Farm to School & Early Childhood program funding creates opportunities to strengthen community connections and build relationships with their local food system; this empowers students to make educated choices on their nutrition and understand how these choices can positively affect the local economy. The Local Food Incentive works to remove barriers for all students so they can access local nutritious food choices in their schools. For many students, the school meals provide the bulk of their daily nutrition. Please continue to support funding that gives the youth greater access to local healthy food choices that offer benefits that last a lifetime.

Please support the Governor's proposal for level funding for both the Farm to School Grant program and the Local Foods Incentive, at \$500k each.

Thank you,
Elyse Perambo