

Johanna Doren  
Winooski, VT  
[johanna@nofavt.org](mailto:johanna@nofavt.org)  
802-434-7162

Public Hearing on the Governor's Recommended Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

Re: Support \$478,500 in base funding for NOFA Vermont's Crop Cash (Plus) and Farm Share programs

My name is Johanna Doren, I live in Winooski, and I am the Local Food Access Coordinator at NOFA-VT, where I administer the Crop Cash (Plus) and Farm Share Programs. Thank you for listening to my testimony.

I am here to ask you to please support \$478,500 in base funding for NOFA Vermont's Crop Cash (Plus) and Farm Share programs, to strengthen farm viability and address food security.

The Crop Cash and Farm Share Programs provide financial assistance to low-income Vermonters to buy fresh food from their local farmers. These statewide programs are truly a win-win because with every dollar, low-income Vermonters can purchase more healthy, fresh, local food that they could not purchase otherwise, and Vermont farmers receive a reliable, fair price for their goods. Investment in these programs has more than quadrupled between 2019 and 2023, and the demand has increased even more rapidly. This is a much faster rate than our funding can keep up with, and we need state funding to fill in the gaps. The State of Vermont can make policy choices that will ensure food security for everyone who lives here, while ensuring our farmers can profit from growing the food we all need. Crop Cash (Plus) and Farm Share are key to Vermont's food security and a viable agricultural sector.

Once again, please support \$478,500 in base funding for NOFA Vermont's Crop Cash (Plus) and Farm Share programs, to strengthen farm viability and address food security. Thank you so much for your time.