

Thank you for your time! My name is Keri Ryan, and I'm the current market manager for the Capital City Farmers Market in Montpelier. I'm calling in from Honduras today to make this extremely important request on behalf of both my market customers and vendors alike. I ask that you approve NOFA-VT's request for \$478,500 in the state budget for food access programs.

Since taking over the market in 2019, I have personally seen the great impact the Crop Cash program has made in the lives of my producers, which includes about 100 vendors each season, and our customers, which averages about 2 thousand people every Saturday.

Keep in mind that we're only open 26 days in the summer season, and only 4 hours per day. But in that short window of business hours, we saw Crop Cash distribution to our customers increase from only \$7,351 in 2020, to \$28,560 in 2023. All of that money went directly to Vermont farmers and makers, and supported our families in need.

For this reason, I ask that you approve NOFA-VT's request for \$478,500 in the state budget for food access programs.

Thank you!

Keri