

TESTIMONY TO: House Agriculture, Food Resiliency, & Forestry
FROM: Carrie Stahler, Vermont Foodbank
RE: VT Foodbank FY27 requests
DATE: January 22, 2026

Good afternoon, thank you for having me back. My name is Carrie Stahler and I'm the Sr. Manager of Government Affairs for Vermont Foodbank.

I'm here to ask for your support for an FY27 appropriation to Vermont Foodbank of \$5 million, including \$2 million for the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters program, \$2 million to support our network of partners, and \$1 million for Ready Response to support food access in disasters and emergencies.

I'm joined today by Emilie Perry from Little Rivers Health Care, the Federally Qualified Health Center in Orange County. They are a network partners focused on produce distribution. And I'm also joined by Hilary Martin from Diggers Mirth Collective Farm in Burlington – they are a Vermonters Feeding Vermonters farm partner and grow a wide variety of products for communities in the Burlington area, as well as work with our network partners at The Family Room and Feeding Champlain Valley.

It is my hope that their testimony will give more context, color, and insight into the many different ways that Vermonters Feeding Vermonters supports a wide variety of communities and helps people across Vermont thrive.

I'll stay to help answer questions but will give Emilie and Hilary the rest of the time today.

Thank you for your continued support and, hopefully, future support for our FY27 request for \$5 million to support farmers, partners, and neighbors across the state.