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Good afternoon, my name is Becka Warren. I'm the Manager of the [Vermont Food Security Roadmap Coalition](#). I live in Hartland. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today about [our Coalition's budget requests](#), which are part of implementing the [Vermont Food Security Roadmap to 2035](#).

The Roadmap shows us how to ensure everyone in Vermont has the food they need. Vermont has a long legacy of being a leader in policy that moves us towards food security for all in our state. We are facing new headwinds on our road together, but with your leadership our collective action will be successful.

Our Food Security Coalition is requesting appropriations that **Maximize Federal Funding with Strategic State Investments**.

No state can replace every federal dollar lost—but Vermont can think creatively, innovatively, and lead again in designing policy choices that ensure the best outcomes for Vermonters at this moment. We ask you to appropriate the needed funds to continue administration of the SNAP/3SquaresVT program, to support service providers who provide benefit application support, and to ensure our youngest Vermonters have access to nutritious food.

- Please appropriate an additional \$6.3 million to ensure continued State administration of 3SquaresVT (also known as SNAP)
- Please appropriate [\\$182,000 to incentivize the sponsor organizations of the Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\)](#)
- Please appropriate \$4.95 million to service-providing organizations to expand capacity for [Benefit Assisters for SNAP and Medicaid](#)

Food security can and should be achieved for everyone who lives in Vermont. At the same time, we can support our farmers and ensure they can profit from growing the food we all need and want. Vermont's food security depends on a viable agricultural sector. Our Coalition requests appropriations that

Support Local Food Security, Vermont Farms, and Food Producers

- We ask you to please fully fund the vital work of the Land Access and Opportunity Board at \$3,217,734.
- Please appropriate \$500,000 to [NOFA Vermont to support the Crop](#)

[Cash, Crop Cash Plus, and Farm Share programs](#)

- Please appropriate \$5 million to the [Vermont Foodbank to ensure responsive readiness in emergencies, and support food purchase and distribution, including their Vermonters Feeding Vermonters program](#).
- Please appropriate \$15.6 million for the [Farm & Forestry Operations Security Special Fund](#)
- Please appropriate [\\$5 million to the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative](#)

We appreciate your leadership on food security, and we know that with your leadership our collective efforts to ensure the best possible outcomes for Vermonters will be successful.

Thank you again.