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FY 2027 Budget Appropriations Testimony

Hello. Thank you so much for the opportunity to be part of this process today.

My Name is Jesse Kayan. I live in Brattleboro and am a co owner of Wild Carrot Farm. I'd like to urge you to appropriate \$500,000 for local food security programs crop cash, crop cash plus and the Farmshare program.

Our farm and the community of customers we serve have benefitted from these programs for over 13 years. The Farmshare and crop cash programs have allowed hundreds of low income Vermonters to participate in our CSA and shop in our farmstand who would not have been able to do so otherwise. Each year our farm has leveraged more than double the state funding through private fundraising and cost shares. More than any other state program this appropriation has a real impact on our farm's financial viability and our ability to further food security in our community.

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.

Please support a \$500,000 appropriation for local food security programs Crop Cash, Crop Cash Plus and Farmshare.

Thank you!

Jesse Kayan

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