

Testimony re: FY27 Funding request by the Vermont Foodbank

Justin W. Rich

February 12, 2026

Burnt Rock Farm, Huntington, VT

My name is Justin Rich, and I own and operate a certified organic produce farm in Huntington, VT. We grow 25-30 acres of vegetables per year to sell into local and regional wholesale markets, as well as direct-to-consumer through multiple CSA programs.

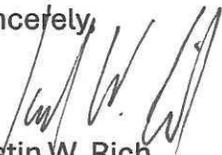
I would like to thank the Committee for hearing my testimony on behalf of Vermont Foodbank's request for funding for the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Program (VFV), and my support for the appropriation of the full \$2 million request for that program.

My experience with VFV is as a wholesale grower of winter storage crops like butternut squash and cabbage. As a first generation farm with a growing payroll, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to help feed food-insecure neighbors while being paid a fair wholesale price for our product.

VFV helps to both feed Vermonters in need and supports Vermont's working landscape, with \$1.60 generated in our local economy for every \$1 spent by VFVP.

Please consider supporting the Vermont Foodbank's \$2 million request for VFV.

Sincerely,


Justin W. Rich