

Good afternoon. My name is Susan Grabowski. I live in Putney and serve as the School Nutrition Program Coordinator for the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union. I am also a member of the Hunger Free Vermont Board of Directors and an active participant in Vermont's Food Security Roadmap work. I take a deep interest in this because every day I see how food security directly shapes children's ability to learn, families' stability, and the resilience of our local food system.

I am here to ask you to please support the Food Security Coalition budget requests to keep us on the road to food security. We can maximize federal funding with strategic state investments, fund the Land Access & Opportunity Board, and support local food security, Vermont farms, and food producers.

In my work in assisting to administer and oversee school nutrition programs, I see both the power and the fragility of our food system. When families struggle with food access, schools feel it immediately. When local farms struggle, schools lose partners and communities lose economic vitality. Strategic state investments allow us to draw down federal dollars and build infrastructure that strengthens both access and agriculture at the same time.

The Roadmap shows us how to ensure everyone in Vermont has the food they need. We are on the road to food security in Vermont — but progress requires continued leadership and coordinated investment.

Please support the Food Security Coalition policies and budget requests to keep us on the road to food security. We can maximize federal funding with strategic state investments, fund the Land Access & Opportunity Board, and support local food security, Vermont farms, and food producers.

Thank you for your time and for considering this request.