



September 19, 2020

Re: Health & Human Services Legislative Interim Committee Hearing, September 25th, 2020

Dear Senator Ortiz & Pino, Representative Armstrong, and Committee Members:

We hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

On behalf of the New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council, Agri-Cultura Cooperative Network, and La Semilla Food Center, we are very grateful for the opportunity to participate in a panel presentation about New Mexico's food, hunger, and agriculture systems current issues and legislative priorities. As part of the panel, we want to provide you with some of materials for your review.

Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI):

The HFFI is an effective, viable, and economically sustainable solution to bring locally-grown food and jobs into under-served communities without sufficient access to affordable, nutritious foods. The fund is a combination of public and private dollars that can achieve multiple goals: reducing health disparities and improving the health of families and children; creating jobs; and stimulating long-term local economic development in low-income communities. Please find enclosed two infographics describing the statewide Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) that we will be presenting during the Legislative Health and Human Services Interim Committee hearing.

NM Grown Fruits & Vegetables to Schools & Senior Meals Programs:

Building on the multiple year work to establish the NM Grown for School Meals Program and a recently completed pilot program to establish opportunities for New Mexico Senior Centers to buy New Mexico grown fruits and vegetables for their meal programs, we are working on a more comprehensive inter-agency approach to mitigate hunger and increasing nutrition through public food and nutrition programs. At the same time, we are increasing economic market opportunities for farms to supply produce, and possibly other farm products, to multiple institutions: schools, senior centers; childcare facilities; and, inter-generational food and nutrition programs.

Our presenters are:

Healthy Food Financing Initiative:

Krysten Aguilar, Co-Director La Semilla Food Center

NM Grown for Schools, Seniors, and Early Childhood Education Food & Nutrition Programs:

Helga Garza, Agri-Cultura Cooperative Network, Executive Director and
NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council, Vice Chair

Additionally, we will have colleagues available during the question and answer period. They are:
Pam Roy, Farm to Table and the NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council
Kendal Chavez, NM Public Education Department, Farm to School Program
Denise King, NM Aging and Long-Term Service Department

Thank you for the opportunity to present. We look forward to presenting and answering any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



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All are representative members of the NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council