Dr. Jodi Williams  
National Program Leader, Food Safety

Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition, Food Safety Division  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
Room 2380 Waterfront Centre  
800 9th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

June 1, 2016

Dear Dr. Williams,

\_\_\_\_\_\_(your organization) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ supports the proposal for “Joint Food Safety Education and Food Enterprise Innovation Forums in 8 Regions of Minnesota.” This project will build upon existing collaborations to integrate FSMA, state and local food regulations, and farmer and food entrepreneur innovations within Minnesota. The five major partner organizations; Renewing the Countryside, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, Minnesota Farmers Market Association, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and Minnesota Department of Health; have a solid track record of program delivery and are trusted partners in food systems work in Minnesota.

The project will help our organization and the (farmers/food entrepreneurs/food systems/schools/buyers/consumers – pick any combination) we work with by:

(Pick any combination of outcomes from this list, add any relevant info specific to your organization – and then delete this sentence):

* Building trust within regional networks of inspectors, farmers, food entrepreneurs, advocates.
  + Improved food entrepreneur perception/trust of MDA/MDH/Delegated Authority intentions
  + Improved MDA/MDH/Delegated Authority perception of food entrepreneur willingness to comply with food safety provisions
* Increasing food entrepreneur knowledge of food safety concepts and increasing inspector knowledge of business practices
* Meeting farmer/food entrepreneur/food system advocate needs for innovation
* Increasing efficiency for food inspectors fielding fewer points of confusion
* Creating a robust base of FSMA knowledge and methods of implementation among regulators, farmers, food entrepreneurs, and food system advocates in MN.
* Better coordination and alignment among food regulatory agencies within regions on integration of FSMA and licensing.
* Effective implementation of FSMA by Minnesota’s sustainable ag/local food community

Our organization will promote this project through our networks and will use the materials generated in any future trainings where they are relevant.

Yours truly,