

**From:**  
**To:**  
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Hello Chair Pazina,

Thank you for hosting today's committee hearing on Natural Resources. I am submitting my public comment in support of the Home Feeds Nevada program also in written form here for additional clarity.

Home Feeds Nevada is an innovative local food purchase and economic development program administered by the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA). As presented, it allocates funds to purchase local products such as fresh produce, dairy, and protein from local farmers in Nevada, delivering these goods to Three Square Food Bank and Food Bank of Northern Nevada for distribution to more than 250 partners and food pantries throughout the state.

Over the past year alone, this program has injected millions of dollars directly to our local producers and farming community, enabling the purchase of over 2 million pounds of locally sourced food, distributed through our food banks to food insecure Nevada residents in all 17 counties. Small farms in Nevada are commonly at economic risk, and have majorly benefited from this funding, with many citing the program as a lifeline that saved their operations from collapse, facilitated expansion, and even allowed for hiring additional staff.

Among numerous benefits, this vital program has proven instrumental in sustaining our local farms and producers, reducing barriers they face in making their produce accessible, ensuring nutritious meals for our communities through the charitable food system, promoting equity within the food system, and mitigating emissions associated with transporting food from outside Nevada.

As Chair of the Southern Nevada Food Council, I am providing comment in support of this program. We work to ensure nutrition security through programming providing equitable access, availability, and affordability of foods and beverages that promote well-being and prevent disease for a thriving society. Home Feeds Nevada upholds these values and provides that nutrition security for our growing number of food insecure residents to have improved access to quality nutritious food grown in Nevada by Nevadans for Nevadans. We ask for your continued support and attention on this crucial program as we strive to secure long-term solutions for the sustainability of this program.

Thank you,  
**Sabina Malik, PhD**

UNR Extension Assistant Professor and Statewide Specialist in Healthy Food Systems

Chair of Southern Nevada Food Council  
Executive Board for Southern Nevada Roundtables



**Sabina Malik, PhD**

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