**Testimony Template –**

Remember:

* Your story is what can make a difference in the hearts and minds of decision makers
* Testimony is usually limited to 2 mins.
* Don’t forget to address them by their title and don’t forget to “make the ask “

**New Mexico Grown for Early Childhood, Student, and Senior Meal Programs**:

**School Food Service Testimony Example**

Senator/Representative,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I’m from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I represent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I am a school food service director/f at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. My school engages in the New Mexico Grown Program and provides lunches with delicious locally grown fruits and vegetables. This is important to me because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Our students enjoy eating New Mexico grown fruits and vegetables because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I also believe the New Mexico Grown Program will benefit seniors and young children.

We are all deserving of access to fresh New Mexico-grown fruits and vegetables for children, students and seniors that promotes health and economic opportunities for our farmers. Please support \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sponsored by Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your time.

**Farmer Testimony Example**

Senator/Representative,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I’m from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I farm \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I am a farmer in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I raise \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for school and senior meal programs. My farm engages in the New Mexico Grown Program and provides melons, apples, squash, … delicious locally grown fruits and vegetables. This has helped me expand my farm business and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Students and seniors enjoy eating New Mexico grown fruits and vegetables because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I also believe the New Mexico Grown Program will benefit seniors and young children.

We are all deserving of access to fresh New Mexico-grown fruits and vegetables for children, students and seniors that promotes health and economic opportunities for our farmers. Please support \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sponsored by Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your time.

**Soil Health and Conservation Testimony Example**

Senator/Representative,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I’m from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I farm/ranch \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I am a farmer/rancher in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I raise \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. My farm engages in the New Mexico Soil Health Program/Soil and Water Conservation Program administered by the NM Department of Agriculture. These programs provide technical assistance, resources, and vital information to me as ways for me to best steward my family farm/ranch. Investing in these programs provides critical resources for farmers and ranchers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Please support \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sponsored by Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your time.

**Soil Health Program Funding**

Voluntary Income Tax Designation for the NM Healthy Soil Program:

This bill would enable NM residents with tax refunds to contribute to the Healthy Soil

Program. Support for this program will benefit farmers and ranchers, the environment, public health and New Mexico’s emerging regenerative food economy. Providing creative funding mechanisms during a time of limited state resources is crucial.

Sponsor: Christine Chandler. Lead organization: NM Healthy Soil Working Group

**Healthy Soil Program:**

(Administered by the NM Department of Agriculture) Maintain **$227,000** in recurring funds in the NM Department of Agriculture budget to incentivize farming and ranching systems that improve the health, yield and profitability of the soils of the state. Additionally, support the Voluntary Income Tax Designation for the NM Healthy Soil Program, sponsored by Representative Christine Chandler. This bill would enable NM residents with tax refunds to contribute to the Healthy Soil Program. Support for this program will benefit farmers and ranchers, the environment, public health and New Mexico’s emerging regenerative food economy. Providing creative funding mechanisms during a time of limited state resources is crucial. Funds support project grants for farmers and ranchers, program administration, education and outreach. Demand for the Healthy Soil Program has been strong, far exceeding available state funding, which is being matched with federal funds from USDA NRCS.

**Conservation Programs and Agriculture Education:**

Continue support for soil and water conservation and related projects and programs while maintaining resources for farm and ranch education programs through the Cooperative Extension Service, Experimental Stations, and Agriculture Workforce Program.

**Agriculture Workforce Program**

Provides eligible agricultural businesses up to 50 percent of the costs to employ an intern, including wages, fixed expenses, and other costs. The agriculture business must provide an intern with at least 130 hours of work experience over no more than 1 year. The intern may not be a current or former employee or relative of the business owner or operator. Seeking $100k in funding to be administered by NM Department of Agriculture. Sponsors: Representative Martin Zamora and Senator Pat Woods. Lead organization: National Young Farmers Coalition

We request funding for the **New Mexico Food and Agriculture Education Grant Program** (“NM Food and Ag Education Grant”).This program was established in the NM Department of Agriculture in 2019 with legislative funding and is supported by many schools, organizations, and youth agriculture related programs. The Education Grant Program would provide funding to schools for experiential and entrepreneurial learning opportunities in food and agriculture. These programs would broaden students’ professional horizons, reinforce multiple state-required subject areas, and give valuable life lessons on nutrition and health. The grant program has three areas of emphasis for schools to choose form: **Agricultural Education, School Gardens/Outdoor Classrooms, and Food Education.** It would further pair up with the expand the **New Mexico Grown Program for School Meals.**

These programs would broaden students’ professional horizons, reinforce multiple state-required subject areas, and give valuable life lessons on nutrition and health. The grant program has three areas of emphasis for schools to choose form: **Agricultural Education, School Gardens/Outdoor Classrooms, and Food Education.** It would further pair up with the expand the **New Mexico Grown Program for School Meals.**

**Healthy Food Financing Act (HFFA):**

(administered by Economic Development Department): The HFFA is an effective, viable, and economically sustainable solution to bring locally grown food and jobs into underserved 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, improving the health of families and children, creating quality jobs, and stimulating long-term local economic development in low-income communities. A **$200,000** legislative investment in the HFFA can leverage $2 million in federal funds annually. Legislative Sponsor: Representative Angelica Rubio

**Blank Template:**

Senator / Representative \_\_< insert their last name > \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I’m from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and

<insert your name here> <your county or city>

I’m a leader with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I’m here today because …..< insert short story of why this bill matters to you > \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We are all deserving of access to fresh New Mexico-grown fruits and vegetables for children, students and seniors that promotes health and economic opportunities for our farmers. and I ask that you vote to pass *\_\_< insert bill you are testifying on >* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time today.