**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 “
* Share a positive story that supports your request

**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 New Mexico-grown and raised foods for children, seniors, families and at our local grocery stores and farmers’ markets while promoting health and well being for our communities and economic opportunities for our farmers. I ask that you vote to pass *\_\_< insert bill you are testifying on and legislative sponsor>* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time today.

**New Mexico Food, Farms, and Hunger** **Initiative Testimony Example**

Senator/Representative,

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

I am a farmer, community member, school/senior food service director at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. My farm/school/senior center 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/seniors enjoy eating New Mexico grown fruits and vegetables because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I also believe the New Mexico Food, Farms, and Hunger Initiative will benefit seniors, children, people who need food assistance, and farmers who grow our food and do business in New Mexico.

We are all deserving of access to fresh New Mexico-grown foods in schools, universities, senior centers, farmers’ markets, grocery stores, and roadside stands. The Food, Farms, and Hunger Initiative will support the health and well-being of our communities and economic opportunities for our farmers. Please support the NM Food, Farms, and Hunger Initiative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 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 schools, senior meal programs, farmers’ markets, grocery stores, and/or roadside stands. 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.

**Climate Change and Conservation Initiatives 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 Programs 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.

**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.