

Dear City Council:

I'm writing on behalf of the Wilder Foundation to urge you to vote against the proposed amendment to Saint Paul's Code of Ordinances: Section. 157.11--Parking for larger vehicles--commercial vehicles. The proposed amendment would limit the number of commercial trucks parked on residential streets to one per address. Instead, we would suggest a cap of two or three trucks per address during the growing season to better accommodate the needs of local residents who are farmers.

Since 1906, the Amherst Wilder Foundation has worked to improve the social and economic well-being of Saint Paul residents. Local and urban farming has the potential to become a major economic driver for Saint Paul – it creates jobs and provides a livelihood for many Saint Paul families, especially for many Hmong residents who bring rich, agricultural expertise and traditions.

Wilder's work also includes increasing access to affordable, healthy foods through the Twin Cities Mobile Market – a grocery-store-on-wheels that provides fresh produce and other healthy foods to residents living in food deserts. During the growing season, we're proud to offer fresh vegetables grown by farmer members of the Hmong American Farmers Association – most of whom are Saint Paul residents. Limiting the operational capacity of farmers by imposing stricter parking regulations could hamper their ability to provide fresh vegetables to programs like the Twin Cities Mobile Market.

Farming is a family affair, and often, many Hmong families need to be at different farmers markets at the same time in order to make a living, requiring multiple box trucks, or delivery trucks, on a given day. This requires some farmers to have more than one truck parked at their residence overnight. To promote the social and economic well-being of Saint Paul residents – and to support Wilder's work in increasing access to healthy, affordable foods, we are asking the City Council to reject the recently proposed amendment to limit the number of trucks at a residence.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 651-280-2077 or leah.driscoll@wilder.org.

Sincerely,
Leah

Leah Porter Driscoll
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