SB13-153 CONCERNING CONTINUATION OF THE INTERAGENCY FARM TO SCHOOL COORDINATION TASK FORCE

Colorado Farm to School Task Force Proposed Amendments & Rationale

The Farm to School Task Force proposed amendments are intended to address gaps the Task Force has discovered in its first two years.

Change in composition:

The Task Force recommends an expansion of membership from 13 to 15 members along with redefining a couple of seats and having the option of non-voting ex-officio members.

- **Change food service *directors* to food services *management.*** With districts beginning to hire dedicated farm to school staff, it may not always be the food services director that is the best fit for the Task Force.
- **Switch one of the four food services K-12 representatives to *three K-12 and one from a university or college.*** It is time for the Task Force to formally expand its farm to school work to higher education food services.
- **Change the "parent" seat to a "local nonprofit community" organization.** This better fits the organizational affiliation of an active parent or community member. For example, Andy Nowak our current parent representative is with Slow Food Denver, an organization that works closely with schools in developing and supporting school gardens and youth farmers markets.
- **Add a public school teacher or principal.** This is a critical perspective that is missing from the Task Force.
- **Add a producer** from a farm, orchard, or ranch that is selling to a Colorado school or district. While we have producer organizations represented, an individual producer who works directly with schools will be a very important voice on the Task Force.
- **Clarify that the representative seat from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education** can include faculty or staff from Colorado universities, colleges, community colleges, and extension.
- **Add any number of nonvoting ex-officio members**. We have past members who have stepped down because they are no longer in the position that made them eligible but continue to work with the Task Force as well as others never appointed who have been as actively involved as Task Force members. This gives the Task Force the ability to formally recognize these individuals.

Change in charge:

- **Change *creating* farm to school program pilots to *advising*** as the Task Force does not have the means nor authority to create pilot programs. However, they have been very active in advising districts.
- **Add *exploring various statewide data collection systems to track farm to school activities.*** It is increasingly clear that we need a systematic, streamlined method for collecting data about farm to school. No one is doing it, yet knowing how farm to school is growing and where it is occurring is necessary for ensuring sustainability and attracting funding for schools. This charge will direct the Task Force to explore how this can be done and come back with recommendations, if that is needed.

Reporting:

- **Continue indefinitely reports to the legislature, every two years.** The first one is this year, 2013. The next will be 2015 and every two years thereafter.