



To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing on behalf of Do It Green! Minnesota regarding the recently proposed changes to the Minnesota Seed Law (Minnesota Statutes 21.80-21.92). Do It Green! Minnesota is a nonprofit whose mission is to educate Minnesotans about sustainable living and promote the building of strong, healthy community. Seed sharing promotes access to healthy, local foods and native gardening, both of which are essential to building a vibrant, resilient community. So in keeping with our mission, in 2014 we initiated our Seed Library program, which provides community members with access to free seeds, opportunities to share seeds with others, and information on seed saving and gardening.

The current Seed Law states that any exchange or distribution of seeds requires that those seeds be labeled and professionally tested for germination rates. While this is logical for the commercial distribution of seeds, it is nonsensical and next to impossible for any free exchange of seeds that might occur at a seed library, a nonprofit, or an interaction between individuals.

Recently, a bill (SF 132) was introduced to amend the Seed Law in order to exempt "a religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational organization that receives less than \$5,000 in gross receipts in a calendar year from the sale of seeds at a single location for use in the state." We support the intention of this amendment but are concerned that it addresses only half of the issue. The suggested exemption makes no mention of individuals, meaning that it will still be a violation of the law for neighbors, friends, and family to share seeds with each other. While many people may choose to share seeds through a formal organization, others want to share seeds on an informal, individual basis, either because of personal preference or lack of availability of a seed sharing institution. It is crucial that all Minnesotans have the right to share seeds on their own and as part of a larger organization.

We have suspended the Do It Green! Seed Library until the Seed Law is changed. Our organization reaches tens of thousands of individuals each year through our programming, and we are eager to legally resume our Seed Library, in order to provide Minnesotans with free access to seeds. However, we feel that it is equally important that any amendment to the existing law include an exemption not just for organizations like our own, but for individuals as well.

Thank you,

Ami Voeltz
Executive Director

Virginia Rutter
Board Chair

Eva Lewandowski
Seed Library Manager