Supply Chain Recovery and Resiliency: Small Producers and Local Agricultural Markets
House Agriculture Committee
Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research
June 30th, 2021

Testimony of Tianna Kennedy
Owner, Star Route Farm
Founder/Operator, The 607 CSA
Board Member, Center for Agricultural Development & Entrepreneurship
Member, National Young Farmers Coalition
Founder, Greater Catskills Young Farmers Coalition

Good Morning Committee Chair Delegate Stacey Plaskett and Ranking Member Jim Baird, the rest of the Committee and Staff. Thank you for this opportunity to share my experiences as a young farmer, operator of a multi-farm CSA The 607 CSA, Board member of the Center for Agricultural Development & Entrepreneurship (CADE), and member of the National Young Farmers Coalition.

My name is Tianna Kennedy and I operate a full-diet, multi-farm community-supported agriculture (CSA) that serves 800 families in New York City and the Catskills. I grow mixed vegetables and small grains on 60 rented acres at Star Route Farm in Charlotteville, New York. I have been farming in Delaware and Otsego Counties of New York for over a decade. My experience farming has been shaped by a lack of access for secure farmland to grow my business. I apprenticed for three years before starting my own business, but because I was paid a farmer's wages (minimum wage), I was unable to save enough to buy my own farm. I helped a second-home owner start an organic farm on his property, but he pivoted business models and, in the process, I lost my job and home. I then formed an LLC with my current farm partner and broke land on our current rented property, but I've been unable to put up permanent fencing or build out a viable wash/pack/cooler station since we only have a ten-year lease on the farm (where the landlord currently lives). We subsequently lose 30-40 percent of vegetables to deer annually and are unable to scale our business due to lack of cooler space. This past winter, we were finally able to purchase our neighbor's property with the help of Local Farm Fund investors, but the property is conventional dairy land and comes with a collapsed barn and a run-down old farmhouse, and will take years to rebuild and to transition to organic production.

Despite not having secure access to land, or access to capital until this year, I have worked collaboratively with farmers throughout my region to develop creative solutions to the challenges we face growing healthy food for market.

I was unable to finance our farm startup in a traditional manner due to my debt-to-income ratio (student loan debt and farm-worker wages), so we started a CSA in 2015 to buy seeds and pay for labor in the spring before we were able to harvest crops. To mitigate risk and create market advantage, I convinced my farmer's market friends to join us in a multi-farm CSA venture we

call The 607 CSA. It grows by 30-50 percent annually. It's become clear that the work of The 607 CSA serves as an integral proof of concept for an organization that can fill in the logistics gaps and address the needs of regional small agriculture. We've discovered that the logistics of moving food from field to fork are insurmountable for many small farms to manage on their own, and so, multi-farm collaborations for aggregation and distribution are not only a creative solution but also a **necessary one and should be supported through USDA programs.**

Social Impact Metrics:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Farms Supported	15	16	17	17	25	45
Families Served (CSA Members)	101	167	212	240	453	834
Distribution Sites	14	15	17	19	21	50
Crew	0	0	0	1	2	10 (27 throughout the year)
Subsidized Shares	0	0	1	5	10	17k worth to Social Justice Programs

**2020 Survey indicates 3.2 people per share*

Last year before our normal season began, we were faced with the COVID-19 pandemic. Our neighbors were confined to houses and grocery store shelves were bare. Through the CSA, we put out the call to our local farms to begin a pre-season home-delivery a-la-carte market for our frightened house-bound Catskills community. Our whole business had to change in an instant. Within two weeks we had a fully operational business with 45 local farm and food businesses delivering to 40 Catskills towns. The work was terrifying: at the beginning we came close to running out of personal protective equipment (PPE) and each delivery felt like a run to Mars. We volunteered time, because we were concerned about feeding our rural neighbors and our business model could not support the hours of driving that entailed. We were overwhelmed by the needs of the community, scared for our own lives, and afraid of infecting people when dropping off produce (before we learned the virus was airborne and unlikely to be transmitted through touch). Though we put out calls for help to local ag non-profits, we received barely any funding to support our work (CADE did find us a source of PPE, paid for the software we onboarded for this market, and helped pay for one administrative support position for a month).

We created a program within our CSA for the wealthier members to support those in need, which helped, but barely scratched the surface of the demand we faced. Though I'm proud of the work we were able to do, in trying to scale up to support the community, we had to take on

all of the risk and weren't able to meet the actual demand at hand because we lacked funding to purchase emergency relief food from our farmers, or to pay our staff adequately. **Farmers who are meeting the needs of the public shouldn't have to shoulder all of the burden of transitioning to meet the need.**

We feel that The 607 CSA succeeds by:

- **Providing a market and trucking logistics for Sustainable Small-Scale Family Farms** in a geographically disadvantaged region. Creating a market in an otherwise unprofitable agricultural region helps to ensure the current farmland stays in production while providing incentive for young farmers to set up operations.
- **Providing organic, nutrient-dense, full-diet, affordable local food** to over 800 Catskills and NYC residents.
- **Performing as a regional foodshed model** promoting scale through collaboration rather than the proven unsustainable and expensive scaling of individual operations.
- **Launching a food sovereignty project in 2020** in collaboration with local non-profit organizations providing the same organic, nutrient-dense food to pantries, food justice orgs, and emergency food projects like Free Fridges in the Catskills and NYC.
- **Working as an agile network**, able to mobilize rapidly during emergencies as demonstrated last spring at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The admin team, supported by the CSA's network of farms, launched an entirely new local home-delivery business model within a two-week span in March 2020. The quick start up included 42 farms and served 40 towns in Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie counties.
- **Providing flexible employment for local residents**. In 2020, the CSA employed 27 people when many had lost other work.
- **Growing steadily** by word-of-mouth.
- **Practicing inclusive decision-making**. Decisions are made by consensus between farms and CSA crew members and the admin team's working groups informed by a series of annual surveys and, importantly, ongoing conversations.
- **Making way for a Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-led future**. In the interim, we are on a path towards inclusion, listening, learning, engaging, and responding.

The 607 struggles in the following ways:

- **It exists in a false economy in competition with larger, subsidized commodity farms,** masking the real value of food. The market will never allow for the margins to provide living wages for employees, payroll taxes, health insurance, vacation, or retirement plans.
- **Trucking is very expensive and warehousing is precarious**. We've maxed out our local farm storage capacities upstate, have had to hire a third-party trucker from Vermont to take the food from the Catskills to the city, and the future of last-mile delivery is uncertain in the city where warehousing is incredibly expensive, and last-mile logistics are even more so once you get there.

- **The business model has evolved organically** as locations and members have requested to join. The result is a far-flung network and inefficiency in trucking.
- **Unable to meet demand for food-insecure and continually marginalized communities** now that the USDA food box program has ended. While before we were filling in the gaps, we are now being asked to provide the bulk of the food. We have the farms, packers, logistics, and transportation, but lack funding to actually support production and distribution.

In order to become an organization that can scale to meet the needs of our communities and to sustain our operations in perpetuity the CSA needs the following:

- **Strategic planning to identify partners for 2021**, develop the food sovereignty projects, and consider the potential of a new 501c3 status. Congress could help by funding dedicated Rural Development office staff, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and extension staff to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to regional food businesses and organizations like ours to formalize and scale.
- **Vertically integrated Infrastructure** - It is time to purchase or lease a refrigerated truck and our own pallet jack (or two). There is not a USDA program that allows for a lot of this kind of infrastructure development beyond FSA micro loans, so I would love to see items like these be included in programs like the Value-Added Producer Grants (VAPG), the Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP), and the Regional Food Systems Partnerships (RFSP):
    - New e-commerce platforms
    - Personal protective equipment
    - Packaging and labeling materials
    - Signage
    - Food safety practice upgrades
    - Food safety certification
    - COVID-19 testing materials and services
    - Dry or cold storage, as well as other equipment and upgrades
    - Hand washing equipment and materials
    - Cleaning supplies
    - Temperature screening equipment
    - Food delivery costs (fuel and maintenance)
    - Expanding or restructuring processing lines
    - Purchasing or leasing temporary space or holding pens
    - Transportation services or equipment
    - Staff time for implementing COVID-19 shifts, protocols, etc.
    - Other measures to protect workers, or aid in preventing the spread of, COVID-19, including providing for worker transportation, housing, and childcare

- **Streamlined and accessible USDA programs.**

Federal programs like the VAPG and LFPP support local and regional food projects, but they are not accessible to working farmers. Farmers like us who have innovated creative and practical solutions to feed our local communities do not benefit from the programs designed to help. The application process is burdensome and extremely academic and even with a Master's Degree in writing, I did not succeed in securing an LFPP when I applied in 2020. The match requirements also exclude smaller projects and historically underserved communities who do not have access to additional funding. **I urge Congress and the USDA to streamline applications, extend the deadlines particularly during the growing season to winter months, and eliminate the match requirement.**

Farmers do not have dedicated grant-writing staff acculturated to the weighted requirements and other non-explicit intricacies of successful grant writing, nor do they have time to write multi-page essays expounding the many virtues of their proposed projects. They are too busy growing food, adding value to that food, and running their businesses. Nevertheless, farmers deserve all the security and support their well-staffed non-profit colleagues receive from successfully written USDA grants as they are the people shouldering the bulk of the work and assuming the majority of the risk. It is important to mention that a more-streamlined/simplified granting culture might also improve the quality of the projects and services provided. A simplified funding protocol might allow for more flexible deliverables, which is increasingly imperative in our current reality. Federal funding needs to be able to quickly adapt to new issues as they pop up including: social unrest, political strife, weather events and natural disasters (including pandemics) brought about by climate change. COVID-19 a great example of one such emergency, a more-flexible funding culture, could have been adapted to address.

In addition, I urge USDA to commit to prioritizing the ranking of all Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP) grant applications that are submitted by, or intend to serve, beginning farmers or ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, operators of small or medium-sized farms or ranches that are structured as family farms, and veteran farmers or ranchers.

I urge USDA to provide dedicated staff and enter into cooperative agreements to help conduct additional outreach and technical assistance for the VAPG program; train State Rural Development office staff about the program; and support non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and extension staff conducting outreach and assistance for the program. Prioritize providing additional outreach and technical assistance to underserved communities, tribal communities, and for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

I am a farmer, and a business owner, but am also involved in the regional agricultural conversation: Through my work at CADE, I have seen how federal dollars can have a positive impact on regional food systems:

From what information I have readily available, we have seen a total of $1.4M invested by USDA in Central NY through CADE since 2015, and another $600,000 that has gone directly to farmers (thank you!), which would total $2M.

Here is a very broad strokes breakdown of the $2M:

- Nearly $600,000 in direct grants allocated to Central NY farmers for business development and marketing via VAPG or RBDG since 2017, including for value-added dairy.
- More than $1.3M in funding to support aggregation, distribution, and marketing products of Central NY farmers via LFPP since 2015 - which resulted in an 117% increase in sales for agribusinesses. This includes our most recent LFPP grant for our Emerging Markets Training Program which includes support for Headwaters Food Hub, Common Market, and Upstate Growers and Packers as hubs.
- $100,000 for strengthening the supply chain to expand farm-to-school local food purchasing via Food and Nutrition Program since 2018

In this year alone, CADE received $100k for distance learning that enabled us to support COVID rapid response. Our Farm & Food Business Incubator which is funded through state and federal funds, supported in one year 309 farm and food businesses through online workshops and one-on-one advising and helped 11 new beginning farmers enter local/regional production - 100 percent of whom were socially disadvantaged.

In 2015, The VAPG helped develop the Lucky Dog Hub, in Hamden, New York. With VAPG funds, CADE hired a consultant to help organize the HUB, and bought critical infrastructure of a pallet jack and walk-in cooler. Though Lucky Dog Farm no longer runs the hub, The 607 CSA has taken on the role and we are still using that infrastructure today.

But while CADE succeeds, the inaccessibility to USDA programs is even greater for "socially disadvantaged farmers" - farmers of color who have even less access to the matching requirements, and ability to take the time to complete the application. USDA should **actively conduct outreach to and recruit Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) producers and organizations for grant review panels and USDA advisory committees** and strive to ensure that the final makeup of committees and review panels reflects the diversity of the constituencies working in agriculture. We ask Congress to **allocate more resources to provide technical assistance and outreach to BIPOC producers and organizations wishing to apply for programs across the food chain like** VAPG, LFPP and RFSP.

At CADE, we are not seeing federal money go toward building or securing land access for the next generation of farmers and ranchers, most especially to BIPOC beginning farmers who have the least access to affordable, secure farmland. We would love to see federal dollars go towards the purchase of public and private land to be made available to young farmers and farmers of color. Land prices are skyrocketing in the Catskills as wealthy people flee New York City - land was prohibitively expensive before COVID but is now much worse.

Also, CADE is working to create equity in agriculture but keeps running up against extreme racism in communities that scare off BIPOC beginning farmers. We need resources for culture change and public dialogue to create safe communities for multiculturalism to exist here. It's hard when our country's divisions and deep seeded racism is playing out so much in rural spaces. But this kind of work is not considered part of agriculture. **USDA needs to think more holistically to support diverse new entrants to agriculture.**

The Farmers to Families Food Box Program in the pandemic showed what is possible if USDA invests in connecting farmers with food insecure communities. We need to continue this type of government support. The first round, before subsequent changes, was accessible to small farmers and small distributors, and paid these entities a good price to sell to those in need.

If a future, more long-term program was to be created like Farmers to Families Food Box Program, I suggest that it:

- Require that at least 20 percent of dedicated funds be reserved for BIPOC nonprofits and food businesses, especially those with proven experience working with BIPOC producers and communities.
- Remove the Good Agriculture Practices certificate requirement to be a producer participating in the program, so that smaller producers growing good, clean, nutrient-dense food, but without resources to modernize production facilities, might also contribute to the program.
- Publish regional lists of small- and mid-sized, and minority- and women-owned farms qualified to be subcontractors in the program or enact a matching program across contractors and producers.
- Evaluate bid prices based on historic and reasonable costs for a particular farm, producer, or distribution operation in order to ensure that small and specialty farms are adequately compensated.
- Set a goal of subcontracting with small- and mid-sized, and minority- and women-owned farms with distributing to minority-led nonprofits as primary goals of the program, aligning all procurement processes and messaging accordingly, and tracking progress toward these goals.
- Publish a best practices guide to recruit BIPOC and young farmers for distributors participating in the program.

A list of The 607CSA / Star Route Farm Food Justice Partners who are asking The 607 CSA to take up the slack of the USDA FOOD BOX Program (21k already donated by CSA members in 2021, but we're running out of funds)

NYC

St. John's Bread and Life: Every day, Bread & Life serves thousands of meals to hungry New Yorkers.

Bushwick Ayuda Mutua: A grassroots network of volunteers providing groceries and household staples to residents in Bushwick, Brooklyn with an emphasis on serving undocumented people, low-income families with children and those sick or positive to COVID-19, serving 200 families a week.

Guanabana Collective: Guanábana serves as a collective dedicated to centering the voices of Black folks with Antillean roots including the Greater and Lesser Antilles.

Heart of Dinner: A nonprofit organization that fundraises to provide cooked-meals and groceries to 1,000 elderly-community of Chinatown, Manhattan.

Woodbine: Woodbine is an experimental hub in Ridgewood, Queens for developing the practices, skills, and tools needed to build autonomy. Woodbine serves around a thousand people each week.

Wat Buddha Thai Thavorn Vanaram: Wat Buddha Thai Thavorn Vanaram is a Buddhist temple in Elmhurst, Queens. We work with them to do occasional distribution for 100 residents.

CATSKILLS

Delaware Opportunities: A nonprofit serving Delaware County, New York residents with emergency food and economic relief, school supplies, and home deliveries. The CSA works with Delaware Opportunity to provide 77 food boxes a month composed of organic: veggies, milk, ground beef, eggs, and bread. Together we distribute to families in Delaware County. We are actively fundraising to increase the number served.

Pantries Organized with a generous grant from CADE Farms:

Burlington Flats Food Pantry

Community Cupboard

Cooperstown Food Pantry

Delaware Opportunity

Greater Franklin Food Pantry

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

Richfield Springs Food Pantry

Unadilla Community Food Pantry

Worcester Food Pantry

Helping Hands Food Pantry

FDT Maryland

Milford Food Pantry

Thank you for your time and your support! It's a pleasure to share our work feeding our neighbors with you. I look forward to participating in future USDA programs!

Tianna Kennedy

Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Information Required From Nongovernmental Witnesses

House rules require nongovernmental witnesses to provide their resume or biographical sketch prior to testifying. If you do not have a resume or biographical sketch available, please complete this form.

1. **Name:**_____Tianna Kennedy

2. **Organization you represent:** ____The 607 CSA, LLC, Star Route Farm, LLC, and CADE farms (the center for agricultural development and entrepreneurship)

3. **Please list any occupational, employment, or work-related experience you have which add to your qualification to provide testimony before the Committee:** ____

_____I own/operate a diversified vegetable farm and a multi-farm CSA/wholesale logistics company; i run an agricultural sail freight business on the Hudson River, and I have been an agricultural consultant, board member and committee member to various ag organizations including Watershed Agricultural Council, CADE farms, American Farmland Trust (regional navigator), Draft Animal Power Network, Unadilla Community Farm, Grownby software company and more._I've been in this field 11 years._____

4. **Please list any special training, education, or professional experience you have which add to your qualifications to provide testimony before the Committee:** ____

In addition to my recent career in farming, I have a degree in writing, and a masters in Performance Studies from NYU (can think and write critically and learn on the fly), I operated my own arts non-profit and used to adjunct in Brooklyn College._____

5. **If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list the capacity in which you are representing that organization, including any offices or elected positions you hold:** _____I'm an owner/operator, consultant, board member, committee member, and regional navigator of the above-mentioned operations/non-profits._____

TIANNA KENNEDY

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PROFESSIONAL

STAR ROUTE FARM Charlotteville, NY

OWNER/OPERATOR (2014-present)

- Managing and operating ten-acre mixed vegetable and small grain operation serving the Northern Catskills and New York City in partnership with Walter Riesen.
- Broke ground 2014 without capital investment; grew as we were able; currently grow for two markets, seventeen restaurants and our 250+ member CSA. In 2018 we employed fifteen workers.

THE607CSA Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, New York, Kings, & Queens Counties, NY

FOUNDER/MANAGER (2015-present)

- the607csa CSA is a multi-farm 250+-member CSA with 15 participating farms and 18 pick-up locations in NYC and Otsego and Delaware county
- Began out of necessity to finance our farm operation, last year brought in over 170k to participating farm and food businesses.

Creative Time Brooklyn, NY

Project Manager for Duke Riley project "Fly By Night" (2015-2016)

- Brooklyn Navy Yard May 2016. Received critical acclaim.

Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship Oneonta, NY

Consultant (2012-2017) - Currently, serving as Board Member

- Beginning Farmer Coordinator - developing and instructing farm business classes for first and second generation Americans.
- Development work: local market strategies, land-linking/access and transition strategies.

Jane DeWitt Stone Works East Delhi, NY

- Built patios, stairways, paths, knee-walls, retaining walls, etc. using traditional 'dry stack' masonry techniques

Greenhorns Pembroke, ME

Project Manager (2013-present)

- Vermont Sail Freight Project - Logistics: Docking, event-planning, press and crew coordination, markets, sailing, cargo logistics, insurance.
- event planning, project-planning, grant-writing, website maintenance

Burnett Farms Bovina Center, NY

Farmer/Manager/Consultant (2012-2013)

Lucky Dog Farm Hamden, New York

Farmer/Manager (2010- 2012)

- Fieldwork, harvest/pack, developed NYC markets, restaurant accounts, crew supervision, business development.

Swoon Studios New York, New York; Ankaran, Slovenia; Venice, Italy

Project manager for *Swimming Cities of Serenissima* (2008-2009)

- Negotiated with Slovenian/Italian government officials, regional coast guards and law enforcement; Partnered with arts organizations; Supervised international shipping; Ran fundraising and budget; Built art rafts in Slovenia; Managed crew, and navigated the Adriatic Sea to perform at the Venice Biennale; Took rafts apart, came home.

Film work - Freelancing Brooklyn, NY

- Associate producer, location sound, post production sound for Ava Berkofsky, Laura Hanna, Chad Laird and Todd Chandler for various film projects. (2004-2009)

Free103point9 (now Wave Farm) Brooklyn & Acra, NY

NYC Projects Coordinator (2003-2008)

- Lectured on sound and transmission art at various museums/universities, ran venue, gallery, residency program, curatorial work, artistic production, special events, grant-writing. ART BIO.

EMOD Arts New York & Brooklyn, NY

Wood Finisher - artisanal hand-finishing (french polish, etc) for restaurants, hotels and private estates

Brooklyn College Brooklyn, NY

Adjunct Professor (2006-2007)

- Taught: Radio Culture, Sight Sound and Motion and Sound Editing
- Ran sound labs at Pratt University

Build It Green! NYC Astoria, New York

Marketing, Development, and Events Coordinator (2004-2006)

- also worked as warehouse crew member

Recorded Books New York, New York

Sound engineer, editor, and session director for audiobooks (2003-2007)

EDUCATION

MA, Performance Studies, New York University, 2007, GPA 4.0

BA, English, Writing emphasis, Northern Arizona University, 2000, Magna Cum Laude.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Farmland Advisors

Land For Good American Farmland Trust with support from Northeast SARE and the Northeast Farm Credit AgEnhancement Program (2014/15)

PROJECTS /ART/ORGANIZING

National Young Farmers Coalition: Catskills Chapter: 2015- present
In an effort to enhance communication, camaraderie and grassroots organizing, I started a chapter of the National Young Farmers Coalition for the Catskills. NYFC is currently concerned with promoting independent family farms, sustainable farm practices, affordable land for farmers, fair labor practices, farmer-to-farmer training, and student loan relief for farmers.

the607csa: 2015-present
I founded an ten-farm community CSA with over 250 members, eighteen drop locations in NYC and the CATSKILLS as well as more than a dozen products in its first year.

Bushel: 2015- present
Bushel is the third iteration of public art spaces I've co-founded. Founded in 2015, Bushel is a nonprofit, volunteer-run, interdisciplinary collective dedicated to growing community and discourse via art, action, agriculture, and events. Located on Main Street in Delhi, New York (pop. 5,117), Bushel is an exploration of the relationships and conversations that can be forged in a low-population area by offering a space for gallery exhibitions, literary readings, musical performances, film screenings, discussions, meetings, co-working, classes and workshops, and other as-yet unexplored happenings. Inspired by both traditional rural meeting places and non-traditional storefront experiments, Bushel remains unwritten, indeterminate, and open-ended.

Tilthy Rich: 2014-2017
In partnership with Flaca Vaca Farm, Walter Riesen, CADE and Bionutrient.org, we initiated a community soil health learning group, which advocates for vital soils, nourishing food and healthy people.

Catskills Time: 2012-2014
Anna Moschovakis and I started Catskills Time, a sixty-member time bank and community-run labor exchange project, to foster community in Delaware County.

Farm Hour Radio show at WIOX: 2010-present
Started local ag show with Madalyn Warren and Ellen Wong (who still host the show).

Andes Sprouts Society: 2010-2017
Co-Created with Madalyn Warren and Deedee halleck in partnership with: Eyebeam Art + Technology Center, Build it Green! NYC, iEAR (Integrated Electronic Arts at Rensselaer), The Sanctuary for Independent Media, Michael Kudish Natural History Preserve, The Andes Society for History and Culture et ASsociety programs for artists, farmers and the general public include: New media art residency, bio-technology and farming workshops, eco-aware exhibitions, film screenings, public projects and performances, lectures and forums. The residency program invites artists, inventors and farmers from around the world to participate on the Catskill region's working landscape.

Empty Vessel Project:2005-2008
I was also a founding member of the Empty Vessel Project, an Action, Art and Design Center fostering projects focused on Sustainable Living in Urban Landscapes. As a public access point to the Gowanus Canal for the surrounding neighborhood, the Empty Vessel Project attempted to foster a network and community in touch with the waterfront. The Empty Vessel Project was about attempting to create points of public access to increasingly privatized public resources.

free103point9/Wave Farm: 2003-present
I helped free103point9 develop from an arts-oriented pirate radio station into a successful arts organization. We invented the genre transmission arts, which encompasses a diversity of practices and media working with the idea of transmission or the physical properties of the electromagnetic spectrum (the airwaves). During my time at free103point9, I curated, participated in and executed hundreds of music and sound/transmission art events, shows, and gallery/museum exhibitions. I also lectured about transmission art at Festivals in Finland, Poland, Germany as well as at Princeton, Columbia, NYU, University of Pennsylvania, McGill University, and Brown.

Ladio: 2005-present
Ladio is an informal professional group for women who work in radio, audio, and adjacent fields. It was started in 2005 by ladies working in radio who thought it would be cool to seek technical advice from unpatronizing peers. Now, it's a nearly 2000 person-strong listserv where members share career and salary advice, gigs, apartment listings, and great audio.

August Sound Coalition: 2004/5
I was a founding member of the August Sound Coalition, an autonomous media project, which, created a popular Art and Action Radio station coincident with the 2004 Republican National Convention and protests in New York City, and subsequently received a Best of 2004 music in *Art Forum*.

ADDITIONAL

Cello
I've been a cellist for 30 years. In New York, I've been active in the experimental music scene both as an organizer and as a musician. According to *Time Out* my ensembles are "marked by chance and joy," and collectively they are "about as predictable as chimps in a mall." I've toured and performed all over Europe and the US and have worked with producers such as Dave Sitek and Jim Waters. My current collaborators and bands include: Jantar, Stars Like Fleas, Ferrum Virgo, Daniel Carter Quartet, Mike Wexler, Hannah Marcus, Zeke Healy, Morgan O'Kane, Foxy Propositions (with Kevin Shea), and Twisty Cat

Writing
I have a background in live art and geography, and have written for liveartmagazine, Reckless Sleepers, and Glowlab, as well as for anthropological student encyclopedias and academic publications.

REFERENCES

Caledonia Dance Curry / SWOON, "Serenissima" swoonifer@gmail.com
Duke Riley, "Fly By Night" duke@dukeriley.info
Jane DeWitt, Stone Mason janeldewitt@gmail.com
Kathy Jacobs, Director, Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions jacobsk@email.arizona.edu
Rebecca Morgan / Phoebe Schriner, CADE eds rebamacmorg@gmail.com, phoebe@cadefarms.org
Richard Giles, Lucky Dog Farm luckydogorganic@gmail.com
Severine VT Fleming, Greenhorns severine@greenhorns.org
Walter Riesen, Star Route Farm (partner) walterriesen@oecblue.com

Truth in Testimony Disclosure Form

In accordance with Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5)* of the *Rules of the House of Representatives*, witnesses are asked to disclose the following information. Please complete this form electronically by filling in the provided blanks.

Committee: Agriculture

Subcommittee: Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research

Hearing Date: 06/30/2021

Hearing Title :

" Supply Chain Recovery and Resiliency: Small Producers and Local Agricultural Markets"

Witness Name: Tianna Kennedy

Position/Title: Owner/Operator

Witness Type: ○ Governmental ◉ Non-governmental

Are you representing yourself or an organization? ○ Self ◉ Organization

If you are representing an organization, please list what entity or entities you are representing:

Star Route Farm, LLC; The 607 CSA, LLC; the Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship.

FOR WITNESSES APPEARING IN A NON-GOVERNMENTAL CAPACITY

Please complete the following fields. If necessary, attach additional sheet(s) to provide more information.

Are you a fiduciary—including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent—of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing? If so, please list the name of the organization(s) or entities.

Owner/Operator of Star Route Farm, LLC (with partners Walter Riesen, and Amanda Wong)
Sole owner of THE 607 CSA LLC
Board member of Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship

Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) related to the hearing's subject matter that you, the organization(s) you represent, or entities for which you serve as a fiduciary have received in the past thirty-six months from the date of the hearing. Include the source and amount of each grant or contract.

Star Route Farm, LLC:

- CFAP $5,919.00 Nov 12, 2020
- NRCS $11,412.48 pending for greenhouse

THE 607 CSA: N/A

Please see below for CADE:

Please list any contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government and related to the hearing's subject that you, the organization(s) you represent, or entities for which you serve as a fiduciary have received in the past thirty-six months from the date of the hearing. Include the amount and country of origin of each contract or payment.

NA

Please complete the following fields. If necessary, attach additional sheet(s) to provide more information.

☑ I have attached a written statement of proposed testimony.

☑ I have attached my curriculum vitae or biography.

*Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5), of the U.S. House of Representatives provides:

(5)(A) Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof.

(B) In the case of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include— (i) a curriculum vitae; (ii) a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the past 36 months by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing; and (iii) a disclosure of whether the witness is a fiduciary (including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent) of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing.

(C) The disclosure referred to in subdivision (B)(iii) shall include— (i) the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing; and (ii) the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government.

(D) Such statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy or security of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form 24 hours before the witness appears to the extent practicable, but not later than one day after the witness appears.