



June 22, 2015

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
State of New York;
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Congratulations on your efforts to support New York State farmers, create markets for New York farm products, and to make connections between upstate producers and downstate buyers. We are writing to express our support for GrowNYC's latest efforts to reach these goals through the creation of a Wholesale Farmers Market/Regional Food Hub in New York City.

Community Food Funders (CFF) is a philanthropic organizing project that supports the growth of an equitable, ecologically sound, and economically robust food system in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. CFF provides information, resources, and networking opportunities for funders to invest strategically in growing, processing, and distributing food locally. CFF is coordinated by the Food and Environment Program Officer at North Star Fund and is comprised of grantmakers from ten foundations. While not a grant-making entity itself, many CFF members support GrowNYC and the efforts of other non- profits that share our goals.

We support this project because a Regional Food Hub is crucial to furthering our goal to create an equitable regional food system that optimizes local growing, processing, and distribution within this region, and balances it with fair trade between regions and internationally. We believe GrowNYC – which has supported local agriculture and connected farmers to markets for more than 30 years —is uniquely qualified to operate this facility. GrowNYC's commitment to let farmers set the price of goods and to pay their workers a living wage would ensure that that this project not only increases the local food supply in NYC but that workers all along the supply chain are treated justly.

While we have been pleased with the rapid expansion of retail outlets for farm products, especially in low-income communities, expanding wholesale distribution may have an even larger effect because 99% of the food Americans eat is purchased through wholesale channels. By investing in this critical infrastructure, public and private sectors will continue to help farmers access the estimated \$1 billion dollar demand in

New York City for local produce, and at the same time, improve the health of all New York citizens.

Once again, congratulations on your leadership in protecting farmers, creating new jobs, and improving the health of our most vulnerable citizens. We eagerly await the outcome of your Administration's negotiations with the city and, as the planning process proceeds, our members look forward to possibly playing a role in supporting this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Adam Liebowitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "L" at the end.

Adam Liebowitz
Coordinator
Community Food Funders

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