



December 6, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Reid, Senator McConnell, Speaker Boehner, and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the Farmers Market Coalition and undersigned organizations, I respectfully urge you to ensure the continuation of crucial farmers market programs before the end of the legislative year on December 31, 2012, either through passage of a five-year Farm Bill or an extension of the 2008 bill that includes authorization and funding for key programs that expired on September 30, 2012.

The Senate's Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act (S. 3240) and the House Agriculture Committee's Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act (H.R. both include important investments in farmers markets, recognizing they are crucial sources of new farm income, economic development, and fresh food access in underserved neighborhoods. Enacting a five-year Farm Bill in the lame duck session will allow successful farmers market programs to continue uninterrupted and increase the number of communities they serve in 2013.

If Congress cannot complete a Farm Bill and chooses to pass an extension of the 2008 law, it must reauthorize and provide funding for the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP). These are among the most successful and efficient programs for increasing access to healthy affordable foods for low-income Americans while stimulating economic activity, and creating links between cities and rural communities.

Thank you for your continued support for healthy farms, healthy people, and healthy communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernadine Prince".

Bernadine Prince, President
Farmers Market Coalition

(and 146 co-signatories named on the following pages)

cc: U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture

Farmers markets are good for everyone. Join us to make them even better.

farmers • consumers • communities
P.O. Box 504 • Charlottesville, VA • 22902
info@farmersmarketcoalition.org • 434-984- 0175 • 877-FMC-0553 • www.farmersmarketcoalition.org



146 Co-signatories from 27 states

- Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles (CA) Allen Neighborhood Center (MI)
 City Seed, Inc. (CT) Andrews Farms (MI)
 Farmers' Market Community Collaborative (CT) Bernadette Malinoski, Volunteer (MI)
 Wholesome Wave (CT) Black Dog Farm (MI)
 National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (WDC) Boyne City Farmers Market (MI)
 Healthy Farms Healthy People Coalition (WDC) Chelsea Wellness Coalition (MI)
 Brevard County Farmers Market/ Extension (FL) Chelsea Farmers Market (MI)
 Earth Learning (FL) City of Mount Pleasant (MI)
 SW Community Farmers' Market, Inc. (FL) Connie Jane's Living Foods (MI)
 Catalyst Miami (FL) Countrysmoke House (MI)
 Local Food South Florida (FL) Diane Carlisle (MI)
 Sharon Yeago (FL) Dixboro Farmers Market (MI)
 Youth L.E.A.D. (FL) Downtown Owosso Farmers Market (MI)
 South Florida Food Policy Council (FL) Downtown Ypsilanti Farmers Market (MI)
 Thomas Harell (FL) Downtown Bay City Farmers Market (MI)
 Urban Oasis Project (FL) Downtown Saginaw Farmers' Market (MI)
 War on Poverty – Florida (FL) Dyer Family Organic Farm (MI)
 Simply Homegrown (GA) Food System Economic Partnership (MI)
 The Root Cellar, Inc. (GA) Friends of Lincoln Park Farmers Market (MI)
 One Island Sustainable Living (HI) Growing Hope (MI)
 Northbrook Farmers Market (IL) Hemlock Farmers Market (MI)
 Glenview Farmers' Market (IL) Imlay City Downtown Development Authority (MI)
 Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Assn. (IL) K's Acres (MI)
 Illinois Stewardship Alliance (IL) Kelsey Cauley, AmeriCorps Volunteer (MI)
 Loyola University Chicago (IL) Lathrup Village Farmers Market (MI)
 Northbrook Farmers Market (IL) Lansing City Market (MI)
 Indiana Cooperative Development Center (IN) Learning Leaves Community Gardens (MI)
 Indy Winter Farmers Market (IN) Mama Mofoods, LLC (MI)
 Our Local Food – Twin Rivers (KS) Menominee Historic Downtown Farmers Market (MI)
 Kentucky Farmers Market Association (KY) Michigan Farmers Market Association (MI)
 North Louisiana Farm Fresh (LA) Michigan Land Use Institute (MI)
 Oberlin Farmers Market (LA) MSU Student Organic Farm (MI)
 Maine Federation of Farmers Markets (ME) Michigan State University (MI)
 Crossroads Community Food Network (MD) Mike Wilbraham (MI)
 Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (MD) Nature's Best Farmers Market (MI)
 Greenridge Farms (MD) New Baltimore Farmers Market (MI)
 Ageless Pantry (MI) Northwest Detroit Farmers Market (MI)

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Original Farmers Market (MI)
Organic Farmer Training Program, MSU (MI)
People's Food Co-op (MI)
Plainfield Township Farmers' Market (MI)
Springfield Farmers' Market (MI)
Scottville Farmers Market (MI)
South Lansing Community Development Assn. (MI)
Walker-Miller Energy Services (MI)
Washtenaw County Public Health (MI)
Westside Farmers' Market (MI)
Wyandotte Farmers Market (MI)
Ypsilanti Food Cooperative (MI)
Zilke Vegetable Farm (MI)
Midtown Farmers Market (MN)
Clayton Farmers Market (MO)
Raleigh Downtown Farmers Market (NC)
Greenmarket/Grow NYC (NY)
Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NY)
Slow Food USA (NY)
Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce (NY)
Logan County Farmers Market (OH)
Alliance Farmers' Market (OH)
Cherry Street Farmers Market, Inc. (OK)
Adelante Mujeres (OR)
Collaboration (OR)
Corvallis-Albany Farmers' Markets Association (OR)
Gorge Grown Food Network (OR)
Montavilla Farmers Market (OR)
Mosier Farmers' Market (OR)
Oregon Farmers' Markets Association (OR)
Slow Food Oregon (OR)
Three D Ranch (OR)
Thrive Oregon (OR)
Unger Farms, Inc. (OR)
Wallowa County Farmers' Market (OR)
Elizabeth Comiskey (PA)
Farm to City (PA)
The Food Trust (PA)
Greater Lehigh Valley Buy Fresh Buy Local (PA)
Over the Moon Farm (PA)
Cathy Bettoney (TX)
David Sedgwick (TX)
Dr. Shirley McKellar (TX)
Foodie Ventures (TX)
Fort Worth Farmers Market (TX)
Lisa Gale (TX)
Texas Honeybee Guild (TX)
Tyler Community Food Coalition (TX)
Zion Canyon Farmers Market (UT)
Williamsburg Farmers Market (VA)
Dorset Farmers Market (VT)
Post Oil Solutions (VT)
New England Farmers Union (VT)
Salmon Creek Farmers' Market (WA)
South Whidbey Tilth (WA)
Port Angeles Farmers Market (WA)
South Whidbey Tilth Farmers' Market (WA)
Bellingham Farmers Market (WA)
Sedro Woolley Farmers Market (WA)
Tacoma Farmers Market (WA)
Bremerton Farmers Market (WA)
Carnation Farmers Market (WA)
Edmonds Museum Summer Market (WA)
Blackberry Moon Farm (WA)
Queen Anne Farmers Market (WA)
Bayview Farmers Market (WA)
Bainbridge Island Farmers Market (WA)
Poulsbo Farmers Market (WA)
Sheridan Farmers Market/Downtown Sheridan Assn. (WA)
Washington State Farmers Market Association (WA)
Everett Farmers Market (WA)
Vashon Island Growers Association (WA)

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