



Department of Health and Human Services

Attn: Mr. Nick Lyon, Director

235 S. Grand Ave. Suite 1514
Post Office Box 30037
Lansing, Michigan 48993

Dear Director Lyon,

We are writing today to ask you to respond to the letter you received from USDA Food and Nutrition Service on August 9th (attached herein) by including a provision in the State of Michigan EBT processing contract that requires the contractor provide no cost wireless equipment and service to SNAP authorized farmers markets and direct-market farmers. The USDA letter strongly encourages states like Michigan to provide EBT equipment that is wireless and that imposes no SNAP transaction or service fees on either farmers markets or direct-marketing farmers.

The success of the Double Up Food Bucks program (now expanding significantly across the state, notably in Flint) is highly dependent on the ability of farmers markets and direct-marketing farmers to process EBT transactions. We know the importance of this program for low-income families and Michigan farmers. The ability of many farmers markets and direct-market farmers to process these transactions in an economically viable manner depends on the State of Michigan following the encouragement of USDA on this.

We are aware that the State of Michigan will begin renegotiating a contract with an EBT processor soon. We are hopeful that you will provide the leadership needed to make it a priority for the state to follow USDA's request to include EBT equipment and transaction fees as part of the next EBT contract.

We are happy to provide additional background, examples of contracts from other states that have these types of contracts already in place, and additional information as requested.

Thank you for your consideration,

Oran Hesterman

President and CEO

Fair Food Network

Dru Montri

Executive Director

**Michigan Farmers Market
Association**

Cc: Rick Snyder, Governor, State of Michigan, C/O Rachel Hansen
Administrative Assistant to the Governor
Office of Governor Rick Snyder
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909