

June 22, 2023

Congressman G.T. Thompson
400 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Debbie Stabenow
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman David Scott
468 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator John Boozman
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members,

We, the undersigned, representing the Farmers Market Coalition (FMC) and its supporters, write this letter to express our support for the Local Farms and Food Act and to seek a reduction in Matching Funds required as part of the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) and the Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) grants. The Act is crucial in enhancing local food systems, providing federal grant funding, strengthening the supply chain, and ensuring food access in low-income areas.

As advocates committed to strengthening farmers' markets and equitable local food systems nationwide, we recognize the need for improvements to serve our local farmers and communities better. We have witnessed firsthand the positive impact of programs funded through FMPP and LFPP. These initiatives have spurred economic growth, contributed to community development, and improved access to nutritious food. Such grants have demonstrated a high return on investment by creating jobs, boosting local spending, and revitalizing local communities. These outcomes underscore the value and effectiveness of supporting local farmers and food producers through federal grant programs. Research consistently shows that investments in local food systems and direct marketing are one of the most effective ways to promote economic growth, and [a study on the FMPP program](#) specifically found that grants led to a range of important outcomes, including increased product diversity, a 50% increase in customers and a 27% increase in vendor sales.

However, FMC believes that specific changes are necessary to make the grant system more accessible and equitable for all. Therefore, we respectfully ask that match requirements be reduced from 25% to 10% for the existing grant categories and that the matching funds' requirement be removed for the Turnkey Grants proposed as part of the Local Farms and Food Act. Reducing barriers to accessing these grant programs can create a more inclusive and equitable local food system that benefits all stakeholders.

The grant match requirement was added as part of the 2018 farm bill. This addition has prevented many worthy farmers' market operators from applying for these funds. The Local Farms and Food Act proposes reducing matching requirements of the Gus Schumacher

Nutrition Incentive Program as well as the Value Added Producer Grant but leaves FMPP and LFPP matching requirements untouched.

In conclusion, we respectfully request your consideration of our proposals to eliminate match requirements for FMLFPP turnkey grants and address the issues with the current grant system. We appreciate your time and care and anticipate your cooperation in strengthening the Local Farms and Food Act, which will, in turn, lead to significant investments in local food systems.

Thank you for your dedication to supporting local agriculture and ensuring a sustainable future for our communities.

Sincerely,

The Farmers Market Coalition, and our fellow signatories listed below

Tender Love and Care Veterans Farm, Alabama
Alaska Farmers Market Association, Alaska
Alaska Food Hub, Alaska
Arkansas Farmers Market Association, Arkansas
Rogers Local Food Market, Arkansas
Siloam Springs Farmers Market, Arkansas
Wallace Center at Winrock International, Arkansas
Agricultural Community Events Farmers Markets, California
Agriculture & Land Based Training Association, California
Alchemist CDC, California
Coastside Farmers' Markets, California
Ecological Farming Association, California
Farmers Market Pros, California
Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative, California
Napa Farmers Market, California
Pacific Coast Farmers Market Association, California
San Diego Markets, California
San Luis Obispo Co. Farmers' Market Assoc., Inc., California
The Ecology Center, California
The Food Initiative of Greater Stanislaus, California
Backyard Market Inc., Colorado
Colorado Farmers Market Association, Colorado
Crested Butte Farmers Market, Colorado
Mancos Valley Farmers Market, Colorado
Nourish Colorado, Colorado
Roots From Eden CSA, Colorado
Ellington Farmers Market, Connecticut

Danbury Farmers Market, Connecticut
Grown Connected, Connecticut
Palisades Farmers Market, District of Columbia
National WIC Association, District of Columbia
Riverside Arts Market, Florida
St Petersburg Saturday Morning Market, Florida
Georgia Organics, Georgia
The MARTA Market, Georgia
Unearthing Farm, Georgia
Wholesome Wave Georgia, Georgia
Wiregrass Farmers Market, Georgia
Hana Farmers Market / Hawai'i Farmers Union - Hana Chapter, Hawaii
Mālama Kaua'i, Hawaii
Gooding Farmers Market, Idaho
Twin Falls Farmers Market LLC, Inc., Idaho
Chicago Food Policy Action Council, Illinois
Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT), Illinois
Illinois Stewardship Alliance, Illinois
Chicago Food Policy Action Council, Illinois
It's All Natuara, Illinois
Village of Brighton Illinois Farmers Market, Illinois
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, Indiana
Food & Growers Association, Indiana
Muncie Makers Market, Indiana
NWI Food Council, Indiana
People's Cooperative Market, Indiana
Prairie City Farmers Market, Iowa
Breadbasket Farmers Market, Kansas
Cultivate, Kansas
Kansas Rural Center North Newton, Kansas
Lawrence Farmers' Market, Kansas
Allen County Farmers Market, Kansas
Greater KC Food Policy Coalition, Kansas
Beaver Dam Community Farmers Market, Kentucky
Berea Farmers Market, Kentucky
Community Farm Alliance, Kentucky
Community Farmers Market, Kentucky
Jackson County Farmers Market, Kentucky
La Grange Farmers' Market & Artisans, Kentucky
Metcalfe County Farmers Market, Kentucky
Montgomery County Farmers Market, Kentucky
Fort Thomas Farmers Market, Kentucky
Barcelo Gardens Fresh Market, Louisiana
Camellia City Farmers Market, Louisiana

Grow For Food, Louisiana
Market Umbrella/Crescent City Farmers Market, Louisiana
Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Maine
Maine Federation of Farmers' Markets, Maine
Flying Plow Farm, Maryland
Milk Lady Farmers Markets, Maryland
Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, Maryland
Brockton Farmers Market, Massachusetts
Cambridge Local First, Massachusetts
City of North Adams Farmers Market, Massachusetts
Elliot Farm LLC, Massachusetts
Marshfield Farmers' Market, Massachusetts
Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership, Massachusetts
Caro Farmers Market, Michigan
Dexter Farmers Market, Michigan
Downtown Marquette Farmers Market, Michigan
East Lansing Farmers Market, Michigan
Eastern Ingham Farmers Market, Michigan
Eastern Market Partnership, Michigan
Fair Food Network, Michigan
Friends of Lincoln Park Farmers Market/DBA Lincoln Park Farmers Market, Michigan
Fur Real Dog Snack, Michigan
Graceworks, Michigan
Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities, Michigan
Health Department of Northwest Michigan, Michigan
Ionia Harvest Marketplace, Michigan
Inkster Task Force Farmers Market, Michigan
Latchaw Farms, Michigan
Michigan Farmers Market Association, Michigan
Michigan Food & Farming Systems, Michigan
Michigan League for Public Policy, Michigan
Mt. Pleasant Farmers' Market, Michigan
National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, Michigan
New Era Farmers Market, Michigan
Northend Christian Community Development Corporation, Michigan
Sharkar Farm, Michigan
St. Louis Farmers Market, Michigan
Westside Lansing Farmer's Market, Michigan
Ypsilanti Farmers Markets - Growing Hope, Michigan
Becker Market, Minnesota
Behind the Breadbox LLC, Minnesota
Canby Farmers Market, Minnesota
Crookston Farmers Market Association, Minnesota
Eyota Farmers Market, Minnesota

Farmers Market Place, Minnesota
Finland Farmers Market, Minnesota
Grand Rapids Farmers Market, Minnesota
Land Stewardship Project, Minnesota
Maple Grove Farmer's Market, Minnesota
Mill City Farmers Market, Minnesota
Minnesota Farmers' Market Association, Minnesota
MJBakesalot, Minnesota
Moose Lake Farmers Market Association, Minnesota
Neighborhood Roots, Minnesota
Pope County Farmers Market, Glenwood, Minnesota
Project Sweetie Pie, Minnesota
Rochester Farmers Market, Minnesota
Roots Return Heritage Farm LLC, Minnesota
St. Luke's Farmers' Market, Minnesota
The Food Group, Minnesota
Tiny Diner Farmers Market, Minnesota
Waseca Farmers Market, Minnesota
West Side Farmers Market, Minnesota
Winona Farmers Market, Minnesota
Women's Environmental Institute, Minnesota
Hernando Farmers Market, Mississippi
Pontotoc Farmers Market, Mississippi
Columbia Farmers Market, Missouri
Cultivate, Missouri
Downtown Excelsior Springs Farmer's Market, Missouri
Get Healthy De Soto/ De Soto Farmers Market, Missouri
Greater KC Food Policy Coalition, Missouri
Louisiana Community Betterment Farmers Market, Missouri
Marshfield Farmers' Market, Missouri
Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Missouri
Missouri Farmers Market Association, Missouri
Grow Montana Food Policy Coalition, Montana
The Gallatin Valley Farmers' Market, Montana
National Center for Appropriate Technology, Montana
Center for Rural Affairs, Nebraska
Fallbrook Farmers Market, Nebraska
Seacoast Eat Local, New Hampshire
Certified Naturally Grown, New Hampshire
Farm to Table, New Mexico
Mark Winne Associates, New Mexico
New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association, New Mexico
New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council, New Mexico
Santa Fe Farmers' Market Institute, New Mexico

Friends of the Ithaca Farmers Market, New York
GardenShare, New York
GrowNYC, New York
Hunger Free America, New York
Ithaca Farmers Market, New York
Lovin' Mama Farm, New York
Otsego 2000, Inc. - Cooperstown Farmers' Market, New York
Project for Public Spaces, New York
Riverdale Y Sunday Market, New York
Troy Waterfront Farmers Market, New York
Ashe County Farmers Market, North Carolina
Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture, North Carolina
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, North Carolina
Compañeras Campesinas, North Carolina
Consultant Nutritionists LLC, North Carolina
Durham Farmers' Market, North Carolina
Farmer Foodshare, North Carolina
Farmers Market Management Services, North Carolina
Feast Down East - Local Motive Mobile Farmers Market, North Carolina
Fuquay-Varina Growers Market, North Carolina
Graham County Farmer's & Craft Market, North Carolina
Harbor District Market, North Carolina
Holly Springs Farmers Market, North Carolina
Lexington Farmers Market, North Carolina
MamaSprings Farm, North Carolina
Marion Tailgate Market, North Carolina
Mills River Farm Market, North Carolina
South Durham Farmers Market, North Carolina
North Asheville Tailgate Market, North Carolina
Nourishing Acres, North Carolina
Pitt County Farm and Food Council for Leroy James Farmers Market, North Carolina
Pitt Partners for Health, North Carolina
Rural Advancement Foundation International, North Carolina
South Durham Farmer's Market, North Carolina
Starbright Farm, North Carolina
The Help Center NC, North Carolina
2nd Street Market (Five Rivers MetroParks), Ohio
City Fresh, Ohio
Fowl's Farm Market, Ohio
Haymaker Farmers' Market, Ohio
Hyde Park Farmers' Market, Ohio
Montgomery Farmers' Market, Ohio
Northside Farmers Market, Ohio
Ohio Farmers Market Network, Ohio

Tuscarawas Valley Farmers Market, Ohio
The OKC Food Hub, Oklahoma
Tulsa Farmers' Market, Oklahoma
Wellston Farmers Market, Oklahoma
Come Thru Market, Oregon
Farmers Market Fund, Oregon
Friends of Family Farmers, Oregon
Genuine Wallowa County LLC dba GWC Provisions, Oregon
OFMA (Oregon Farmers Markets Association), Oregon
People's Farmers' Market, Oregon
South Valley Farmers Market, Oregon
St. Johns Farmers Market, Oregon
Tigard Farmers Market, Oregon
Woodstock Farmers Market, Oregon
Adams County Farmers Market, Pennsylvania
Adams County Farmers Market Association, Pennsylvania
Bethlehem Farmers' Market, Pennsylvania
Centre Markets LLC, Pennsylvania
Easton Farmers' Market, Pennsylvania
The Food Trust, Pennsylvania
Lancaster Central Market Trust, Pennsylvania
Lansdale Farmers' Market, Pennsylvania
Lewisburg Farmers Market, Pennsylvania
Pasa Sustainable Agriculture, Pennsylvania
Zelienople-Harmony Farmer's Market, Pennsylvania
NESAWG, Rhode Island
City of Aiken Parks, Recreation & Tourism, South Carolina
Landmark Farmers Market, Tennessee
Martin Area Farmers Market, Tennessee
Martin Farmers Market, Tennessee
Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network, Tennessee
Tn Association of Farmers Markets, Tennessee
War Garden & Farm Project, Tennessee
Galveston's Own Farmers Market, Texas
Let's Grow Crazy, Texas
Rocky Hill Farms, Texas
Texas Center for Local Food, Texas
Farmers Market Ogden, Utah
Burlington Farmers Market, Vermont
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont, Vermont
Shelburne Farmers Market, Vermont
Stowe Farmers Market, Vermont
Winooski Farmers Market, Vermont
2020 Farmers Co-Op, Virginia

Birdhouse Farmers Market, Virginia
Courthouse Farmers Market, Virginia
Del Ray Farmers Market, Virginia
Extension Master Gardeners, Virginia
Farmers Market Ogden, Virginia
Health Care Without Harm, Virginia
Local Environmental Agriculture Project, Virginia
River Street Education Inc., Virginia
The Farmers Market at IX, Virginia
Vinton Farmers Market, Virginia
Virginia Community Food Connections, Virginia
River Street Market, Virginia
Bremerton Community Farmers Market, Washington
Clarkston Farmers Market, Washington
South Whidbey Tilth, Washington
Twin Sisters Mobile Markets, Washington
Washington State Farmers Market Association, Washington
Sequim Farmers and Artisans Market, Washington
Vancouver Farmers Market Association, Washington
Vancouver Farmers Market, Washington
West Virginia Farmer Market Association, West Virginia
West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition, West Virginia
Behnke's Grass Fed Beef & Pasture Pork LLC, Wisconsin
Farmers and Artisans River Market, Wisconsin
Monona Farmers Market, Wisconsin
Wisconsin Farmers Market Association, Wisconsin