

JARED HUFFMAN
2ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1630 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-5161
FAX: (202) 225-5163
WEBSITE: huffman.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0502

June 15, 2014

Farmers Market Promotion Program
USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 4534-South Building
Stop 0269
Washington, DC 20250-0269

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to support the proposal by Agricultural Institute of Marin's (AIM) to USDA's Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) for planning funds to enable the completion of the pre-development phase of the permanent home for the Marin Farmers Market on the Marin Civic Center Campus.

The Marin Farmers Market is an award-winning, 32- year old community asset operated by AIM which sources regional quality food from small and medium-sized direct marketing producers. AIM plans to create a permanent farmers market at the Marin County Civic Center to elevate the Marin Farmers Market from its current status as a temporary parking lot event. AIM's permanent farmers market will increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products by creating an expanded, more functional and substantially improved market place.

AIM's efforts clearly align with FMPP Program goals. California direct marketing producers have much to gain from this enlarged farmers market project. AIM currently provides direct marketing opportunities for about 220 certified direct marketing producers selling in their certified farmers markets. This project will create both expanded opportunities for its current group of producers, as well as create opportunities for more local and regional producers to direct market their products.

The project is supported by the community as demonstrated on June 3, when over 81% of the voters approved a ballot measure to grant permission for AIM to pursue a covered parking lot and facility on public property owned by the County of Marin. This kind of public-private partnership between county government and a well-established non-profit organization is the kind of innovative approach to meeting community needs that will serve as a model throughout our state and nation.

If approved, these funds will allow AIM to complete essential preconstruction project elements. I am committed to helping the county bring this farmers market project to completion, and I hope you will give their application your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress

SAN RAFAEL
999 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 290
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901
PHONE: (415) 258-9657
FAX: (415) 258-9913

PETALUMA
206 G STREET, #3
PETALUMA, CA 94952
PHONE: (707) 981-8967
FAX: (415) 258-9913

UKIAH
559 LOW GAP ROAD
UKIAH, CA 95482
PHONE & FAX: (707) 671-7449

FORT BRAGG
430 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET
P.O. Box 2208
FORT BRAGG, CA 95437
PHONE: (707) 962-0933
FAX: (707) 962-0905

EUREKA
317 THIRD STREET, SUITE 1
EUREKA, CA 95501
PHONE: (707) 407-3585
FAX: (707) 407-3559