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November 15, 2011

Timothy L. Tramble, Executive Director
Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc.
7201 Kinsman Rd. Suite 104
Cleveland, Ohio 44104

RE: Bridgeport Market, Cafe & Community Kitchen (MC²)

Dear Mr. Tramble:

Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc. recognizes that simply providing access to fresh foods alone will not totally eliminate the health disparities. Residents must be educated and informed about the values of eating healthy in order to make healthy lifestyle changes. Funding from the USDA's Community Food Project grant will allow BBC to fund the Community Kitchen component of the Bridgeport Market, Cafe & Community Kitchen (MC²) and help to fund help the community education and engagement activities. As a Member of the United States House of Representatives Agriculture Committee, I offer my support of Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc. in your application to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the US Department of Agriculture for the Bridgeport Market, Cafe & Community Kitchen (MC²) in the Kinsman neighborhood of Cleveland, OH.

There is a growing need to improve access to healthy food in the Eleventh Congressional District. 20% of my constituents and 40% of the African American families I serve receive SNAP (food stamp) benefit. The unemployment rate from the city of Cleveland is over 7% and 16% of the African American residents in District are unemployed. This project will be able to address the critical issue of food access and employment. The MC² project will work to reduce the well documented disparity in access to healthy nutritious foods in the Kinsman neighborhood by bringing a variety of healthy food options to residents and families in the area. BBC's comprehensive proposal creates sustainable employment and business opportunities, improves access to healthy affordable foods, promotes active and healthy living education for youth and adults. I am pleased that this project will have a fresh produce market, restaurant that will use food grown by local market gardeners, and a community kitchen that will educate residents on how to prepare healthy meals using locally grown fruits and vegetables. The Bistro at Bridgeport Place will operate a farmers market and a mobile market that will expand health food access to every food desert in Cleveland.

I commend your commitment to eliminating food deserts in Northeast Ohio, supporting local market gardeners, employment opportunities and community education and engagement. Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc. is not only changing communities with redevelopment projects, but transforming attitudes toward health food and access. It is my hope that your request is met with favorable consideration from the United States Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress
MLF: jwn