

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250


Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write in support of Farm Fresh Rhode Island's (Farm Fresh) proposal, developed in collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, to the 'Farmers to Families Food Box' program. This funding will enable Farm Fresh to provide individuals and families in need with boxes of fresh Rhode Island produce and dairy products through the state's primary food bank, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank (RIFB).

Since 2004, Farm Fresh has been working successfully on growing and strengthening the local food system in Rhode Island, including by running a subscription-based "Veggie Box" program for the last six years. Because of these efforts, Farm Fresh has access to an expansive network of local farmers and the infrastructure capable of providing a combination box offering healthy food options. Farm Fresh would use this funding to continue working with small farmers in the region to create combination boxes with fresh local vegetables, fruit, fluid milk, yogurt, and cheeses and distribute the boxes to the RIFB's network of 40 member agencies. Through the Farmers to Families Box program, Farm Fresh would provide up to 3,750 food boxes per week of fresh and healthy fruits, vegetables, and dairy products for RIFB to deliver to food insecure Rhode Islanders.

We support Farm Fresh's proposal, and request your consideration of this application within all applicable rules and regulations. If we can be of assistance to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact our offices. Thank you.

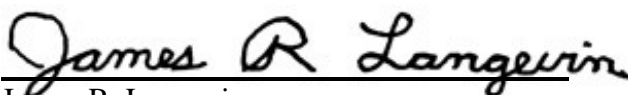
Sincerely,



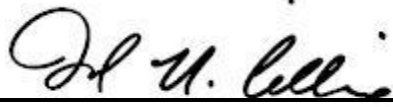
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress