



## SUSTAINABLE FOOD POLICY BOARD

**Paula McDermott, Chairperson**  
810 West Gibson Street  
Austin, TX 78704

**Vince Cobalis, Executive Liaison**  
Austin/Travis County HHSD  
P. O. Box 1088  
Austin, TX 78767



June 27, 2011

Carmen Humphrey, Program Manager and the FMPP Grant Program Staff  
USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 4509-South Building  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Ms. Humphrey,

I am pleased to offer this letter on behalf of the Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board in collaboration with the Existing EBT Project Enhancement in East Austin application for funding being submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Agricultural Marketing Service by the Sustainable Food Center.

The Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB) serves as an advisory body to the Austin City Council and the Travis County Commissioners Court concerning the need to improve the availability of safe, nutritious, locally, and sustainably-grown food at reasonable prices for all residents, particularly those in need, by coordinating the relevant activities of city and county government, as well as nonprofit organizations, and food and farming businesses. In order to ensure a truly sustainable food system that makes access to quality diversified food choices a human right, the SFPB depends on strategic partnerships with reputable, established organizations skilled in these areas.

This project, in particular, will help bring needed fresh local food to an area of Austin where such resources are difficult to access. In addition, it will maximize government assistance programs, by providing shoppers who utilize SNAP and WIC vouchers at the proposed east-side market, twice the value of their benefits to purchase fresh produce.

The Sustainable Food Center has been actively involved with the board from its inception. The agency provides necessary programming to support the SFPB's policy work. Both entities plan to continue this collaboration in working to create a just food system in Austin and Travis County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. J. McDermott".

Paula J. McDermott  
Chairperson  
Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board

cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
H. G. (Bert) Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager  
Shannon Jones, Acting Director, HHSD, Public Health  
Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director, Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services  
Lucia Athens, Chief Sustainability Officer  
Ronda Rutledge, Sustainable Food Center Executive Director