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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3215

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING DEMOCRAT, FINANCIAL
SERVICES AND
GENERAL GOVERNMENT
MEMBER, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE
MEMBER, STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS

MEMBER, CONGRESSIONAL
HISPANIC CAUCUS

SENIOR WHIP

October 31, 2016

Jay Williams, Assistant Secretary of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Williams:

As representatives from the state of New York, we strongly support the full funding of GrowNYC's proposal for the Greenmarket Regional Food Hub, in the Bronx, NY, from the Public Works program.

The primary purpose of the Public Works program is to help distressed communities revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure. The Greenmarket Regional Food Hub project fulfills that purpose and more. Located in one of our country's most poverty stricken areas, the Greenmarket Regional Food Hub project will increase access to fresh healthy food and increase market access for small and medium farmers in our nation's largest population center – a win-win for consumers and producers. Additionally, the Food Hub will create 95 permanent living wage jobs and 150 construction jobs.

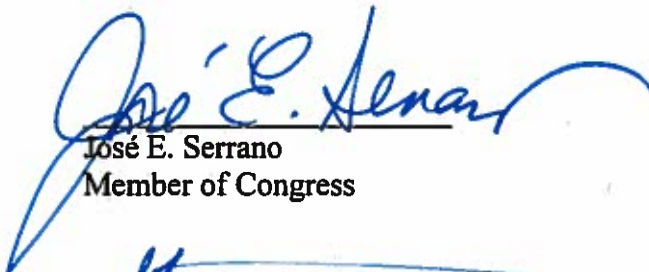
Currently, the Food Hub operates in the Hunts Point neighborhood of the Bronx as a 5,000 square foot (SF) wholesale marketplace for small and medium sized producers. The Food Hub has 41 producers selling products within its marketplace from seven states – including New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Massachusetts, Maine, and Florida. Annually, the Food Hub moves three million pounds of food to restaurants, retailers, senior centers, nonprofits, and community farmer's markets.

A fully funded proposal will allow GrowNYC to move its operation to an expanded, state of the art facility in the South Bronx. The new 75,000 SF building will include 60,000 SF of food aggregation and distribution space, including cold storage units, U.S. Department of Agriculture compliant processing space, and 15,000 SF of offices and operational areas. The remaining 45,000 SF of the lot will be devoted to the wholesale farmers' market. In total, the expanded Food Hub will move roughly 20 million pounds of local produce a year when at full capacity. New York State has already committed \$15 million to the project and \$3 million has been secured from private sources. Funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) represents the last piece of the necessary financing. The facility will create a permanent home for Greenmarket Co., GrowNYC's existing local food distribution program, as well as provide crucial infrastructure for local farmers and food producers.

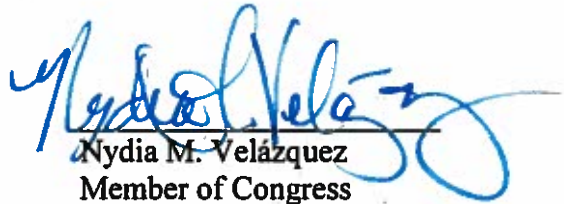
When completed, the Food Hub will serve two critical functions. First, it will provide small and mid-sized farmers access to New York City's vast wholesale marketplace, and by doing so, keep hundreds of farmers farming and preserve thousands of acres of farmland. Second, and equally important, it will allow GrowNYC to dramatically expand the amount and variety of produce it provides to community partners and distribute via GrowNYC's food access programs like Youthmarket and the Fresh Food Box in the Bronx and elsewhere.

This proposal is a win for underserved neighborhoods and it is a win for our hardworking farmers looking to expand their business in one of our country's largest markets. We hope that EDA will give GrowNYC's proposal your full consideration.

Sincerely,



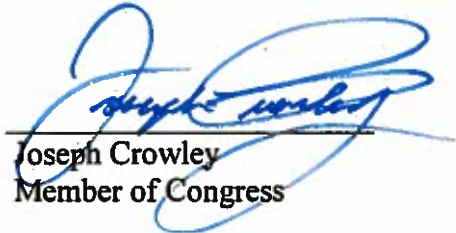
José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



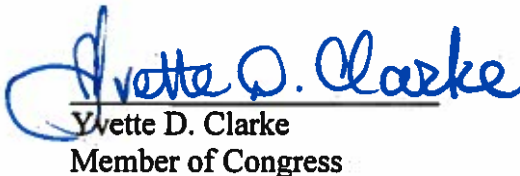
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



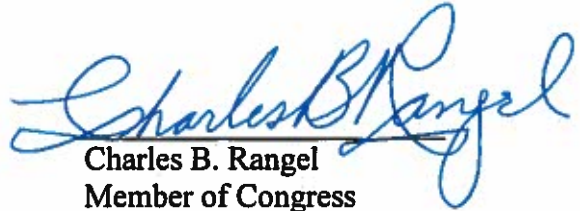
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



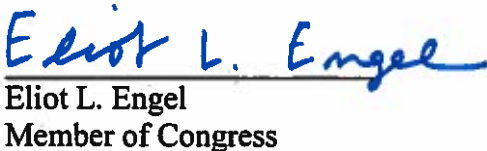
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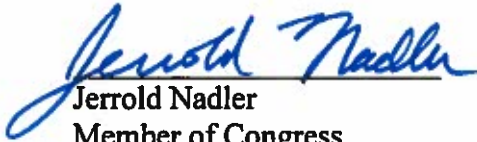
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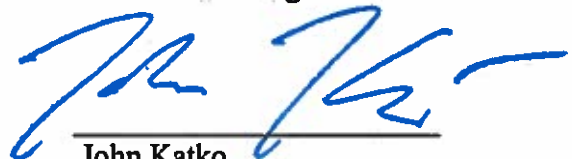
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John Katko
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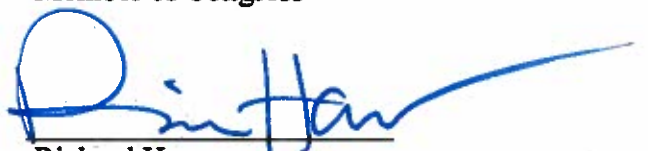
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