



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

Philip Huang, MD, MPH
Medical Director and Health Authority
Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services
RBJ Health Center
15 Waller Street
Austin, TX 78702

Dear Dr. Huang,

I am pleased to offer this letter on behalf of the Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board in collaboration with the Community Transformation Grant (CTG) application for funding being submitted to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Prevention Health Fund by the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department (HHSD).

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 various city and county departments, nonprofit organizations, researchers, businesses and community groups.

Goals outlined in the proposed CTG include needed assessments, infrastructure, and policy changes that will lead to improved access to a sustainable healthy food system, and, thus, better nutrition. The SFPB welcomes the opportunity to work with city staff on grant objectives that intersect with the board's charges. We look forward to collaborating to reduce chronic diseases such as obesity and diabetes in our community, through this partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula 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
Kristi Hansen, Obesity Program Coordinator