

Date

Dear Professors Mix, Cade, and Gandonou,

On behalf of the Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board, I wish to express our interest in collaboration on the grant proposal under the title **A Time for Food: The East Austin Food Security Food Improvement Plan** (Planning for East Austin's Urban Food Systems through Community Networks and Vocational Training).

This project will create and strengthen existing networks thereby improving food security in East Austin, TX. Stakeholder partnerships will be forged in education and outreach; local government; local urban farmers, marketers, transportation and restaurants; non-profit resource management; local businesses; and academia.

Proposed activities include meetings to establish partnerships; defining the food needs of returning veterans and low-income community members in East Austin; stakeholder plans for programmatic implementation; and pilot projects. Partners with the Texas State University Departments of Agriculture and Geography, and The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment will also develop curriculum for an innovative veteran vocational program.

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, nonprofit organizations, researchers, businesses, and community groups.

We are very interested in providing full support to the proposed planning project. We know that the current drought and community demand for local food systems is a challenge for central Texas, especially the Austin Metropolitan community. We believe that a planning committee of stakeholders can bring needed insight and guidance to this project. We look forward to an active role in this collaboration with Texas State University.

Sincerely,

Representative's Name

Representative's Title

Any relevant contact information.