Stephen Adler, Mayor City of Austin P.O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767

Re: Letter of Support for Green Gate Farms

Dear Mayor Adler:

We, members of the Farmland Preservation and Access Working Group of the Sustainable Food Policy Board, are writing to you on behalf of Green Gate Farms, an award-winning certified organic, community-based farm in east Austin that is being threatened with significant reductions or closure because of development plans.

Our group came together several years ago because we are alarmed by the farmland that is disappearing all around our community, as if it had little value until the time comes for it to be put to "good use" as a location for homes and stores. Our community does need new homes and stores, but we also need local farms. We are working to help our community decide that it is important to preserve farmland for sustainable, regional food production and to increase access to land for food producers. This current threat to Green Gate Farms reflects an unquestioned trend for one-sided commercial development that is endangering our farmland and diminishing our regional food production capacity.

In mid-March of 2015, an Arizona-based manufactured home developer, Roberts Resorts, bought 250 acres of land in Travis County which encompasses Green Gate Farm's five acres and its low-income neighborhoods, including Hidden Valley and High Meadows. When Roberts Resorts revealed its site plan during its first community meeting in April, the farm was not included as part of the plan. Instead, the developer planned to replace existing growing fields and green space with a gated complex for luxury RV's and manufactured homes.

Green Gate Farms is a one-of-a-kind Austin icon:

- It is a certified organic vegetable, flower, and livestock farm open to the community and close to the community.
- It is located in a historic setting on Austin's eastside; the Swedish barn and farmhouse were built by the Bergstrom family 113 years ago.
- It has served as a creative center for artists ranging from Matthew McConaughey to the Cohen Brothers.
- The current farm, founded by former public health experts, focuses on feeding people of all incomes and community engagement.

Please join us in this community-wide effort to preserve Austin's farmland. At this moment the threat is to Green Gate Farms. If nothing is done, the loss of this emerald in our community will be just an example of much more to come. If we do not preserve our farmland, it will be lost. Is that the future community that we want? According to Imagine Austin, it is not.

Please look into this matter and consider taking a stand to support farmland and local food production as a real priority for Austin and Travis County. Please join the effort to save Green Gate Farms.

Sincerely,

Adriane Hasch

Ronda Rutledge Ronda Rutledge

Evan Driscoll

Fuan Driscall

Steven Hake Steven R. Hake

Tony N Hernandez

Pusie Nashall

Sue Beckwith Sue Beckwith

Telipe Camacho Felipe Camacho

Ora Houston City of Austin Council Member P.O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767

Re: Letter of Support for Green Gate Farms

Dear Council Member Houston:

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Ronda Rutledge Ronda Rutledge

teven Hake Steven R. Hake

Julie Zimherman, Agrilite Extension

Susie Marshall

Evan Driscoll

Evan Driscall

Delia Garza City of Austin Council Member P.O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767

Re: Letter of Support for Green Gate Farms

Dear Council Member Garza:

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Sue Beckwith

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teven Hake Steven R. Hake

Julie Zimmerman, Agni Life Extension

Susic Narshall

Ronda Rutledge Ronda Rutledge

Telipe Camacho Felipe Camacho

Sabino Renteria City of Austin Council Member P.O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767

Re: Letter of Support for Green Gate Farms

Dear Council Member Renteria:

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Ronda Ruttedge

Evan Driscoll Evan Driscoll

Steven R. Hake

Julie Zimmerman, Agrilite Extension

Patricia Monune

Susie Marshall

Sue Beckwith

Felipe Camacho

Greg Casar City of Austin Council Member P.O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767

Re: Letter of Support for Green Gate Farms

Dear Council Member Casar:

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Gail F Rothe

Ronda Rutledge Ronda Rutledge

Cvan Driscoll Evan Driscoll

Steven Hake Steven R. Hake

Tulie Zimmerman Agrilife Extension

Susie Marshall

Sire Beckwith

Sue Beckwith

Telipe Carracho Felipe Camacho

Ann Kitchen City of Austin Council Member P.O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767

Re: Letter of Support for Green Gate Farms

Dear Council Member Kitchen:

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Ronda Rutledge Ronda Rutledge

Sue Beckwith

Evan Driscoll Evan Driscoll

Steven Hake Steven R. Hake

Subje Marshall

Telipe Camacho Felipe Camacho

Don Zimmerman City of Austin Council Member P.O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767

Re: Letter of Support for Green Gate Farms

Dear Council Member Zimmerman:

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Ronda Rutledge Ronda Rutledge

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Cvan Driscoll
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Steven R. Hake

Tieven K. Mane

Julie Zimmerman, Agrilife Extension

Parricia Monure

Jon Beall

Tony N Hernandez

Sousie Marshall

telipe Camacho Felipe Camacho

Leslie Pool City of Austin Council Member P.O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767

Re: Letter of Support for Green Gate Farms

Dear Council Member Pool:

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Ronda Rutledge Ronda Rutledge Sue Beckwith

Susie Warshall

Ellen Troxclair City of Austin Council Member P.O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767

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Julic Zimmermon, Agrilite Extension

Patricia Monure

Jon Beall

Tony N Hernander

Susie Nathall

Evan Driscoll

Kathie Tovo City of Austin Council Member P.O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767

Re: Letter of Support for Green Gate Farms

Dear Council Member Tovo:

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Sue Beckwith

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Jon Beall

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Telipe Camacho Felipe Camacho

Sheri P. Gallo City of Austin Council Member P.O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767

Re: Letter of Support for Green Gate Farms

Dear Council Member Gallo:

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