Secretary Bettina Ring  
Office of the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry  
Patrick Henry Building  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  

CC: Virginia Department of Health; Office of the Governor  

Re: Urgent Action Needed for VA’s Farmers Markets during the COVID-19 Outbreak  

Dear Secretary Ring,  

The Virginia Farmers Market Association is a member-based Association of Farmers Markets, farmers, and affiliate partners dedicated to promoting the direct farmer-to-consumer relationship, supporting Virginia’s independent farmers, and increasing access to fresh, healthy, locally-grown food. We represent Farmers Markets throughout the State of Virginia and work to ensure local and state regulations strengthen the farmers’ market industry.  

As of now, Virginia Farmers Markets in several counties have had their permits revoked and are now unable to operate. The Association and the undersigned organizations, businesses, and individuals write to request that the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) take swift action by issuing a statement affirming the essential role Virginia’s Farmers Markets play for Virginia’s farmers, economy, and communities across the State, and affirmatively equate Virginia’s Farmers Markets with grocery stores and other retail outlets for the purposes of COVID-19 containment policies.  

The rigorous regulations that normally govern farmers markets exist to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, and so farmers markets and market vendors are exceptionally well prepared to enact additional precautions. Farmers’ markets specifically have a number of additional benefits as food outlets including:  

• A shortened supply chain means that food passes through far fewer hands than other retail outlets;  
• Markets are open air with space to move away from people if needed;
• Market trips are brief, unlike prolonged events, and average shopper outings at the market average around 20-30 minutes;
• Farmers market booths are non-permanent, so products are not constantly being touched 7 days/week, and can be wiped down regularly by vendors.

Farmers Market operators care deeply about the communities they serve, and many have already taken proactive steps to protect market customers, farmers, and staff including proceduralizing staff hand-washing and sanitizing of market surfaces; not allowing vendors who are sick to set up and eliminating any penalty associated with missing market; and ceasing all food sampling.

We urge the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to take swift action to protect Virginia Farmers Markets, and the farmers who rely on them. The wholesale closures of hundreds of Virginia Farmers Markets for several weeks, let alone several months could result in the permanent loss of many of Virginia’s family farms, which out communities’ food supply relies on.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to partnering with you to help Virginia farmers and farmers markets navigate this crisis.

Sincerely,
The Virginia Farmers Market Association

Attached is a list of individuals and organizations in Virginia that support this letter:
Kim Hutchinson
Va Farmers Market Association

Kelly Key
LEAP

James Wierman
Eight Veterans Farms

Jenn Harter

Lindsey Caroline Felty
Appalachian Sustainable Development

Michele Cook
Honeysuckle Hollow Farm
Keeping farmer's markets open during times of crisis creates a local food supply. Without that, many people will be hard pressed to find any food, let alone the nutritious foods offered at farm markets.

Ben Stowe
Little Hat Creek Farm

Rachel Wheeler
Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council
Small farmers are the backbone of the Appalachian Region. Economically, we depend on them as we are rural. If we can't keep them in business, it really will mean economic collapse for some of our communities.

Josie Showalter
Harrisonburg Farmers Market
I agree that Farmers Markets are a very healthy option and fit in the category of grocery stores as a critical community food source.

Ian Littlejohn
Blacksburg Farmers Market & Market Square Park
With precautions we ARE essential. See our website for our official statement.
www.blacksburgfarmersmarket.com

Jenn Harter

Lindsey Caroline Felty
Appalachian Sustainable Development

Michele Cook
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Blacksburg Farmers Market & Market Square Park
With precautions we ARE essential. See our website for our official statement.
www.blacksburgfarmersmarket.com

Paula Dullas
PandA Homestead

Peter I Francisco
Lakeside Towne Center

Louella Hill
Ballerino Creamery

Deb Matthews
Chase Your Tail Bakery

Lisa Schleser
Nona's Preserves

Elizabeth Simms
Town of Rocky Mount

Julie Kogut
Sing-Along Soap LLC

Debra Jones
2Connect
Ricky Kowalewski  
Lynchburg Community Market

Michael Reilly  
Virginia Foodshed Capital

Adam Aucoin  
River Oak Farm

John Willard Montgomery  
Dorey Park Farmers Market

Maria Hobson

Sam Lev  
LEAP

Cappie Lee Montgomery  
Dorey Park Farmers Market

Mantana Heim  
Cooking school
Want the Farmers market to continue. My only area to sell breads and to buy produces.

Ashley  
Malcolms Market Garden and Staunton Farmers Market
As a vendor, this is our chance to serve our community with fresh local food from our farm. We need this grassroots effort to see us through this crisis.

AMANDA M DAY  
Starstead Farm LLC

Jana Fedele  
Human Race
Keeping a supply of fresh local food in our community is important now more than ever.

Nick Stavely  
FRESHFARM

Cindy Bunch  
Olde Beaufort Farmers' Market

Kathleen Ganiere  
I am an organic farmer.  
I purchase my own food from this market, and these are my friends and neighbors selling at the market. Please keep it open.

Lindsay Newsome  
Virginia Association for Biological Farming

Hugo Mogollon  
FRESHFARM

Judy Berger  
Green farmers market
We will only be allowing food vendors to sell at the market. Crafters and artisans will not be in attendance.

John Oakes
People are safer at farmers markets than they are in grocery stores.

All of my income comes from 2 small businesses I operate and right now, business is taking a bit hit. Please support the local Farmer's Market. Any way we can operate or new rules we can impose to make this happen will keep us small business owners afloat during these next few months.
Food services/catering

Rebecca Premock
Beautycounter

Kim
KWE Publishing
Please keep farmers' markets open and available! It is so important to our community.

Chris A. Curtis
Blue Ridge Coffee Crafters LLC
This too shall pass...

Leopoldo Beltran jr
Leedstown farm

Kellee Sutton
Cartersville Ruritan

Dora Beltran
Normas produce
We need these farmers markets open to provide a safer healthier way to get fresh vegetables and fruits in to people hands.

Colin O’CÖRourke
Virginia Bread Company

Willow Rosenblatt
Farm to Table Roanoke at Greenbrier Nursey

Barbara Edmondson

Trevor Langrehr

Debra J Moser
Central Farm Markets
Hoping that they will change their minds!

Anita Carshult
Off The Grid Farm to Table Restaurant
Local grown, farm fresh food provides far more nutrition than mass produced, thus promoting health and wellness! Food heals! Eat Well! Stay local!

Rebecca Vigon
Mineral Farmer's Market
It's on a big field on the outskirts of town. People will be craving us by the first weekend of May!

Robert H. Greenlaw
Earth’s Echo Farm

KENDAL GRONER
Hollow stone farm

Teresa Catron
Town of Hillsville Farmers Market

Nicole Dyer
White Birch Food & Juice
Please do not shut down our farmers markets! We need these to survive. Thank you!
Susan A Miller
VCCA
Don’t close. Consider having pets stay at home and asking people to keep 6foot distance from each other.

James Henderson
market farmer

Jerry Gorde
Richmond Resident

Richard Moyer
Abingdon Farmers Market

Debra Munger
Busy Bee Soapery

Chelsea Roseberry
FRESHFARM
Farmers markets are safer alternatives to shopping at indoor grocery stores. If you close markets there will be pushback from consumers unlike with other non-essential gatherings. Sunshine and fresh air has been a proven method since the 1920s in fighting pandemics. Usage of the markets has increased dramatically as many customers feel more comfortable with an outdoor venue. Last week markets saw foot traffic increase 3 fold or more! Farmers were selling out early. With food shortages, especially for meats in all major grocery stores, we need to make sure we are getting as much food to the people as possible. Many customers told us how appreciative they were that we remain open. Closing the markets would hurt already struggling farmers, and make it even more difficult for customers to gain access to foods in this time of crisis.

Robin Broder
Arlington Friends of Urban Agriculture

Nicolas Lovelace
Peppers heads

Julieellen Sarver
Market customer
Farmers markets are outdoors, safer than grocery stores. The food is fresher and has been handled less.

Terry Nelson
Dessert Classics LLC

Jane Cullipher
Cullipher Farm Inc

Pat Lloyd
Patron/shopper

Sarah V Sowers
Sarah's Petals

Aaron Kline Kushner
MeatCrafters Inc.
Farmers markets are an essential part of the food chain. They are at least as important as supermarkets since they offer healthy foods and access to the people who grow it. Closing the farmers markets in Virginia will
do irreparable harm to Virginians at the worst possible time.

Ian Grinere
Wind Runner Farm

The Farmer's Market provides much needed income for the farmers. The local food is fresh and the customers are outside when they make their purchases. This is much like a grocery store providing produce.

Sara
Virginia

Food access is a key concern, with schools and pantries closed. Allowing farmers markets to operate just like grocery stores is critical to connecting low income families with healthy, affordable locally grown food.

Elizabeth Borst
Virginia Community Food Connections

Brett Nobvile
Ninja Kombucha

Farmers Markets account for 75% of our sales.

Parker Agelasto
Capital Region Land Conservancy

Zane
Shady brook acres LLC

William Clark
Moose Hill Worm Farm

Mary Pedersen
Verdant Acres llc

Mary West
Mount Olympus Berry Farm

Yolanda Zepeda
The Taco 'bout

Christi Macomber
Macshack Acres

Melanie Hall
Peaceful Heart Farm LLC

Rachel Unkefer
Market Patron

Carolyn Nicely Bradley
Farmers' Market - town of Glasgow, Va
Kathi Shilling  
Broadway Farmers Market

Meg Hibbert  
Salem Farmers Market vendor

Amy Jordan  
We Dig Tidewater LLC  
*Our farmers and producers have food ready and available for the community.*

Meg Hibbert  
Catawba Valley Farmers Market vendor

Cindy Abbey  
Town of Hillsville

Fredrika J Teute  
Williamsburg Farmers Market

Keith and Janice Mileski  
Mystic River Lavender/Blacksburg Farmers Mkt

Shawna Gallagher  
Dogs on the Run Catering

Paige Welch  
Empowered Plant Cakes

Michael Rogers

Ryan Brink  
Campus Kitchen At Washington And Lee University

Karissa Stam Bullen  
Abingdon Farmers Market

Cathy Baker  
Flour Child Bakery

Brittany Grutter  
VABF

Molly Sharp  
consumer

Tonya Judd  
Naked Farm

Bill Wolf  
Second Star Farm

Barbara Miller  
Edgewood Miller Farm  
*Farmers need this income and people need the food, especially at this time!*

Kristin Fischer  
Vabf

Justin Burtyk  
Bootstrap Burt's Hot Sauce, LLC
Coriena Witman  
Mountain Music Farm

Amy Campbell  
Old Rich Valley Farm

Charlotte Maitland  
BCS America

Jennifer S Derr  
Bear Flats llc

Barbara F Johnson  
Timberwood Farm

Linda Rich  
*I am a private citizen who thinks Farmer’s Markets are vital to the community and an important part of the food distribution system.*

Ann Rogers  
ArborReal Products, LLC  
*I am a seller at Floyd Farmers Market.*

Don Weber  
customer, Northern Va.  
*Direct to consumer is the best and safest route of commerce!!*

Katherine Johnson  
Fields edge LLC

Amy Roberts  
Radford University, New River Community College, VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries, Wytheville Farmers Market  
*My farm in Bland County, Aerie Farm LLC, feeds many seniors and other income-insufficient customers in Wythe and surrounding counties at the Wytheville Farmer’s Market. We hope to be able to continue this service to our community throughout the spring, summer, and fall.*

Katie Trozzo

Savana Griffith  
CBD LIVITY

Cathy Cavender  
Monrovia Farm, LLC

Rachel Bynum  
Waterpenny Farm, LLC  
*Our customers are grateful for the chance to buy safe, local food from our farm. They express distrust of Grocery stores compared to open air shopping venues. We are taking precautions to keep hands off our produce and prevent the spread of disease, and are more than willing to do our part to ensure a healthy community and follow additional safety guidelines. Our family income is 75% from farmers markets each year. Please make a sensible, healthy choice and keep markets open during this national emergency.*

Rich Faucher Jr.
Do not remove the exemptions of rabbits, ducks or small poultry from the on farm processing and selling regulations. If you want us to feed people with locally grown meats, make sure the 999 animal exemption stays in place or put you effort in to making sure Virginia has no cost processing for my smaller Organic flocks to be processed. There is only one USDA poultry specialty processor in VA and it is a corporate Ag's processing facility. Don't tie our hands, and then ask why we don't produce these products. Be the solution, not the problem!!!

Kevin R Damian
VABF member

Kathleen A. Kelley
Art Guild of Greene

Avis Renshaw
Lost Corner Farm
surely Farm Markets can implement online orders and safe distancing/prepackaging to help you make a YES decision in a responsible way!

Kevin Fletcher
Feed and Fertilizer store

Rebecca
Owl Moon Farm

Ashley Lynch
Gateaux Bakery and Cafe

Shay Drake
ShayD.Arts

Lynn Kriesten
Central Farm Markets
Fairfax County Public Schools will currently not allow us to hold our farmers market on school property while the schools are closed. While this is standard procedure during bad weather, this is an unaccounted for situation where it would still be important for our market to be open.

Denise R Zito
Free Union Grass Farm in Free Union, VA

Lee O'Neill
Radical Roots Farm

Genevieve Jacobs
Fresh local produce is essential to my health!

Josie Baxter
Baxter Family Farm, LLC
Sydney Sanders  
Kathy Duncan  
Duncan Designs

brad Willet  
Organizer

Anne Geyer  
Agriberry Farm

Michel C Dash  
Wytheville Farmer's Market

Chelsea Matzen

Lenna Keefer  
BIODYNAMIC farmer and herbalist/ethnobotanical artist

Dr. Natalie Cook  
Virginia Tech

Daphne Clark  
22 Oaks Garden

Charles Maloney  
Dayspring Farm

Miriam Maloney  
Dayspring Farm

Leslie Slusher  
Fields Edge LLC

Joe Cloud  
T&E Meats (USDA processor)  
This action is critical to the survival of my business, and my customers' businesses.

Cathryn Ricketts  
Woodside Farm market

Jorian Schutz  
Farfields Farm  
There are potential alternative arrangements to the traditional farmers market layout. But I assume you are open to these.

Kim Usry  
RVAgriculture

Ellen Langford  
Wytheville Farmers Market

James Clark  
22 Oaks Garden  
Customers really appreciate fresh local vegetables!

Elizabeth Turkette  
7 Springs Farm

Terry Matlaga Bell
Farmer’s market are a healthier, safer way to get food than the grocery store. Not to mention the nutritional value of the food is much higher.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization/Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark Angelini</td>
<td>Mountain Run Permaculture, LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patti Rosenberg</td>
<td>Waverly Farms, LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexia Rojahn</td>
<td>Wingstem Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Palma</td>
<td>Restoration Acres Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cristin Kovacs</td>
<td>life and living</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth. Cecilia Colglazier</td>
<td>Valley Reekside Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheryl Bursch</td>
<td>River Street Market</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roger Williams</td>
<td>Cedar Mountain Apiary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agatha Hannah Grimsley</td>
<td>Organic Growers School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucas M Miller</td>
<td>Mrs Yoders Kitchen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kadie Elizabeth Britt</td>
<td>Virginia Tech</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Bridge</td>
<td>Oyster grower</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Key</td>
<td>Truffula Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Autumn Campbell</td>
<td>Tomten Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kym Dunford</td>
<td>Country Roots Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audra Sandridge</td>
<td>Trossachs Woodland Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dan Kittredge</td>
<td>Bionutrient Food Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Christenson</td>
<td>LOKAL Cafe</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Many families depend on local farmers markets to provide quality food for their family.

Our cafe is a whole foods, plant based cafe which relies on fresh vegetables from our local farmer's markets.
Open air markets are a healthier option than indoor shopping. See https://medium.com/@ra.hobday/coronavirus-and-the-sun-a-lesson-from-the-1918-influenza-pandemic-509151dc8065

My wife has 40 food allergies, my 5 year old son nearly as many. Most food sold in the grocery store has so many added ingredients that we can not get anything my wife and son can eat from a standard grocery store. If Farmers markets are forced to close you will literally be starving my wife and child. This is not an exaggeration.

In Staunton, local growers and food creators are banding together to provide drive-through groceries, based on on-line ordering. This could become a model for other communities.

Food security via locally grown products is key to this tennis situation we all find ourselves in at this moment. People need access to good, fresh, nutrient dense foods-especially now. Farmers Markets provide this and in a much safer environment than a grocery store! Our livelihood depend on farmers markets. Thank you for keeping them open, accessible and promoting farmers markets-an important resource for our community.

In Staunton, local growers and food creators are banding together to provide drive-through groceries, based on on-line ordering. This could become a model for other communities.
Christy Bertuglia
I'm a consumer who is on welfare and I get most of my produce and meats from the Williamsburg farmers market. This has been such a blessing for my family sense we don't make as much money and we want to stay healthy.

Erica Stratton-Kang
Tricycle

Patrick Banks
Allegheny Mountain Institute

Sandra Levy

Aimee Alexander
Constituent

Will Hahn
Hahn's Smokehouse / caterer

Matthew Palma
Restoration Acres Farm
We've had our biggest sales on record the past few weeks. This proves that local farmers are a vital part of keeping the population fed and nourished. We're not just hobby farmers doing this for fun, we are an essential part of food security. To shut down farmers markets would be a great disservice to Virginia citizens and farmers.

Bonnie S. Brooks
Anam Cara Haven

Steven Wolf
Abingdon Farmers Market

Julie Hawkins
I feel much safer shopping at farmers markets!

Erica Stratton-Kang
Tricycle

S.J. Wolf
Wolf Farm Natural Elements, LLC

Rebecca Wolf
Abingdon Farmers Market

Darrell Volschke
WAPF

Karen
Dream Rock Silo

Will Hahn
Hahn's Smokehouse / caterer

Shannon Krammes
Farmer's Markets offer an open air environment to get healthy food, exactly what we need.

Joyce Roberts
Grayson Landcare
Farmer's Markets are extremely important

Heidi Jurka
Independance VA Farmers Market
Support our local growers of organic food sustainable meats!
Barbara Byers  
Portsmouth Olde Towne Farmers Market

Robert Harris Jr  
Citizen

Sarah Lanzman  
Bliss Point Farm

Ann-Marie Stephens  
Organic Spice Blends | Precise Portions

John Tinning

Dylan House  
Abingdon Farmers Market

NAVFAC MIDLANT

Mason Hulen  
AARP / Veterans groups / K of C

Patti Brewer Cheatham  
Farm To Consumer Legal Defense Fund

Lenora Rose  
Independence Farmers' Market

Judy Brown  
Weston A Price Assoc

Cameron D Terry  
Garden Variety Harvests

Anne Shine  
Retired Financial Advisor

Francesca Rodriguez  
Henrico County Government

Paul Danaher  
W at W, Inc.

Brigitta White  
Botanical Bites & Provisions, LLC

Anita Roberson  
Many people may require our services especially since the retail distribution system is not keeping up with the demand. Additionally, to deny farmers a means to sell their products during this challenging period will cause life-saving foods to rot in the fields and not allow farmers to provide for their families.
Dave White
Self Employed Accountant; The Office Art Guy
*Farmers markets help support a strong immune system!*

Crosspointe resident

*Many of our local farmers are not tech savvy and couldn't change over to online orders/delivery readily*

Bette Rae Bevan

Fredrick H Knack
Wytheville Farmers Market

Megan Burdick

Wilmer Zook

Dayna Patrick
Botetourt Farmers Market

*Being an outside market makes this the most healthy way to support local business.*

Ellen Ussery

Wilmer Zook

Eduardo Castro
Valley Wellness

Bonnie R Cohen
The Virginia Association for Biological Farming

Eli Chandler
Thorvin, inc.

George Smith
VBGA

Tamara McNaughton
TNT Farm N Greenhouse

Theresa Allen
Peace and Harmony Farm

Erica Jones
Virginia Cooperative extension

Harriet H. Meinecke

*I have more confidence in buying locally grown, nutritious food from vendors I know, and know their farms, than purchasing at grocery stores. I feel safer purchasing food and items at the Independence Farmers Market, than going into commercial stores.*

Michelle McKenzie
Bellair Farm CSA

Bonnie P Kidd
Jerry Kelly  
Cedar Hill Homestead  
Audition Forest  
We have gone to this farmers’ market for 20 years!

Debbie Gagon  
Seeds of Faith Farm  
Roger H Henderson  
VABF Member

Dorothy McIntyre  
Forest Farmer's Market LLC  
Devona Bell

Kimberly Bissel  
Wanda Bullard  
Citizen  
Please make the farmers markets like grocery stores where the virus is concerned

Michelle Nace  
Resident  
Fran Elrod

Mark Schonbeck  
Virginia Association for Biological Farming  
I am a consultant in sustainable agriculture, a research associate with OFRF, and policy liaison for VABF  
Nancy J. Liebrecht  
Blue Ridge Fiberworks  
I depend on the market to get fresh food not available in my local grocery stores

Marcia Geyer  
Karen Rawlings

Amanda Crumpler  
Franklin Farmers Market  
Christine S Sparks

Paula O'Keefe  
Suzanne Alexander  
Independence

Mark Medford  
Village Events  
Ethan Register

Marie Spaulding  
Deborah Kushner
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alex Peters</td>
<td>Botetourt Farmer’s Market</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Venskoske</td>
<td>J &amp; W Farm, LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marie Smith</td>
<td>Moose Acres Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benjamin Clark</td>
<td>Glow Holistic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tonya Newsome</td>
<td>The Hoot LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Sprague</td>
<td>Resident of Fauquier County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deidre Thigpen</td>
<td>Wytheville Farmers Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Meyer</td>
<td>Milby Barn Studio &amp; Chatham Flower Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sam Spaulding</td>
<td>Arlington Forest</td>
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<td>Delora Gillman</td>
<td>Weston Price Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Wells</td>
<td>Hearthstone Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Hill</td>
<td>Small farm conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian William Burton</td>
<td>B &amp; B Culinary LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sue Marek</td>
<td>Mareks Farm Market</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jenifer Musselman</td>
<td>Loudoun Valley HomeGrown Markets Cooperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Owens</td>
<td>LVHMC markets also double SNAP dollars, which means that many in our community who are in the greatest need of obtaining</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
fresh food, have access to the foods they need.

Suzanne Ashley  
SuzThrives!  
Holistic Master Health and Life Coach

Henry s. Braithwaite jr  
Max the knife sharpening

Anne Earle Strange  
Weston Price Foundation/ Reston Farm Market  
*Once our farmers market open, I do all my grocery shopping there and so do many of our friends and neighbors.*

Donald Stewart  
Patron of Farmers Markets

Lara Kunkler  
Market Patron

Gail Murphy  
VABF, Dorey Park Farmers Market

Nancy Maurelli  
Goose Creek Gardens LLC  
*THANKS for thinking about this proactively.*

Richard Cheatham

Debra Lubar Moore  
Farm market shopper  
*I shop at Portsmouth Virginia Farmer's market.*

Tara Fuller

Jane Brummer  
Local medical center

Patricia King

Sylvia Lehman  
*I don't shop in grocery stores. I rely on farmers markets and direct purchases to*
supply my family with fresh, safe, nutritious food.

Bruce Burgess

Kim Serocki

Margo Solod
i depend on the local market for a great deal of my food.

Thomas H. Bruguiere, Jr.
Dickie Bros Orchard

Annette Kuebler
Weston Price Foundation

Rosina Snow
Director of Christian Discipleship/Wesley UMC

Jeff S Gregson
Bees and Trees Farm

Clinton Allen
Allens Farm

Alisa Cowen
Cowen Design Group
I rely on Farmers’ Markets for my fresh produce, meat, eggs and baked goods.

Arden Jones
great day gardens

Kim
Farmers market produce is the main staple of my diet. Healthier food in less crowded environment and cheaper.

Lena McDonald

Jim Jones
Lexington Farmer's Market

Katie Speicher
Waterpenny Farm

David & Nicole Schauder
Permaculture Gardens LLC

Sarah Dachos
Farmer Veteran Coalition
We dont operate any farmers markets, but our members attend many across the state. We have ~ 800 members in Virginia (and 17,000 nationwide).

Britton Barbee
Virginia Association for Biological Farming

Kimberly Brundage
Kim Brundage Photography
Please keep the farmer’s markets open for healthy food choices.

Robert Wood
Woodsong Naturals Farm
Ben Kessler
Farfields Farm

Michael Grantz
Great Day Gardens LLC

Randall Rhyne
New Morning Farm, LLC

Randall Rhyne
Two Veterans Farms

Pam Bailey
Bedford County Economic Development

Michelle Pridgen
Independence Farmers Market, Grayson
LandCare Windy Hill Farm

Scott Sink
Hethwood Market

Jerry Moles
Blue Ridge Plateau Initiative, Inc.
*Our role is developing the infrastructure required for regional farmers to participate in discriminating and high value markets.*

Annabelle Lane

Kenneth B Sloane
Smithfield Farm and Garden

Robert W Meinecke

Galax Veterinary Clinic

Steven McFadden
Bedford Va Farmers Market

Adrienne Davis and Earl white
Big Indian Farm Inc.
*In this time of uncertainty we strongly believe that there is strength in our local economy that protects the quality of foods and our patrons. We urge you to strongly consider our request, as fresh food access is extremely important to people who shop at farmers market. Also, please do consider the impact of market closures on local farmers who provide local access to fresh quality foods. Closing the markets will be a grave disservice to our local community.*

Abby Williams Nicolo
It is crucial to the community of Independence, Virginia and surrounding counties that we continue our work to provide and distribute local food.

Gary Hall
FRESHFARM

Chris Nestor
VABF

Tony Daniel
River Street Market

Michelle
Farmer
John Lovaas
Reston Farmers Market
Go for it!

Ben Narduzzi
Zesty Zymurgy Ferments

Kelly Bennett
Botetourt County taxpayer
Farmers’ Markets are as valuable to our communities as the grocery store. It’s a way to connect to and support the community, as well as to purchase healthy food.

Jan B Hermansen
ManyBlueHills Farm
Many people depend on the local Farmers Markets

Barbara Jean Barlow
Virginia Community Food Connections

Brian Garretson
Tomten Farm

Robert Stratton
Farmville Community Marketplace
In addition to being the market manager for the Farmville VA market, I am also a vendor at that market and the Drakes Branch market in Charlotte County.

Jonathan T Root
Harvest Table Farm

Tom Grigsby
Consumer

Margaret Ruhe
Long & Foster Real Estate Inc
I shop my local Farmers Market every week and it is my go to source for meat & vegetables

Melissa Marshall
Marshall Nutrition

Beth Reynolds
Drakes Branch Farmers Market

Frank Bertuglia
Baker

Joe Marshall
Headlong Production

Katharine Rhamey
UVA

alexandra antero
costumer
We need to protect our farmers, they can take the same precautions and make it work.

Mac
Southern exposure seed exchange
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Statement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regina Yurkonis</td>
<td>I would rather shop fresh local foods in an open air setting than imported products in a store.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Becker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pa Country Equipment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaylia (Gay) Prejean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Cnudde</td>
<td><em>I love farmers markets. It supports the local economy</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ameya King</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meade Anderson</td>
<td><em>I lease land to farmers who participate in farmers markets</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabrina Walker</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holly Parker</td>
<td><em>The farmers markets are safer than an indoor grocery store.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica D Wright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annette Naber</td>
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<td>Laura E Mayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Miller</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Calib Miller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David L. Via</td>
<td><em>Good work, well appreciated.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Gladwell-Sayre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Friend</td>
<td><em>I would be a customer not a vendor.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly Parker</td>
<td><em>The farmers markets are safer than an indoor grocery store.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorraine Potter</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jazmyne Ortiz</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
afford about 80% of my grocery bill every week!

Charity Furness
Experience Old Town Warrenton

Julia Turner
Former farmer

Richard Patterson
Serenity Farms

William W Shaw

Ben Harder
Den Hill Permaculture
We need to keep providing this valuable resource to our community

Lucy Overstreet
IdleWild Farm
Local food is safe and clean.

Evrim Dogu
Sub Rosa Bakery

Joyce J Rouse
small biz owner
We count on our market for fresh healthy produce

Virginia Smith
Southern Fork Farm
david king
Abingdon Farmers Market

Thomas Vasilopoulos
Friends of Urban Agriculture Arlington

Polly Hieser
Seven Springs Farm CSA

Annie Malloy
Take 2 Publishers

Brittanie

Claire Suen

Juliette Doyle
NOFO Soaps

B West

Becky Lillywhite
Center for Rural Culture /FallLine&Local Roots
Our farmers need this!

Dillon Edwards
Bird house farmers market
Jennifer G
I do not see any compelling reason to exclude Farmers Markets from being in the same category as Grocery stores. Shorter supply chains, less handling and generally better, fresher products make this a win for consumers.

Hannah Patrick
National Young Farmers Coalition

Larry Lewis

Caroline Lewis
Staunton Farmers Market
There are many seniors in our town including and the farmers market is a vital source of food for us. Given that it’s outdoors, we believe it’s much safer from coronavirus than a grocery store, and we ask that you allow markets to stay open.

Richard
Vendor @ Harrisonburg Farmers Market

Tish Folsom
Springdale Water Gardens

Sandra Vann
Vann Premium Pork

Lou Ann Neely
Riven Rock Farm

Julie Harry

Justin Riederer

Michael Dudley
Meadow Acre Gardens

William N Hale
All-Farm Organics

Ray Herndon
Ray's Virginia Produce

Siobhan Ford-Holland

Jamie Gerome
Harrisonburg Farmer's Market patron

Julian Cha
Hospital

Mary Delicate
MaryDelicate.com

Sue Collins
Shopper

Tamie Perryman
M2 Flowers and More

Teresa Clayton
None
Sylvia Martin  
GCSAC

Katie Hoffman  
Fall Line Farms and Local Roots

Carolina Donahue  
Grit and Glam Farm
*Please also advocate for stimulus funding for farmers. We have already missed markets, have restaurant accounts closed and we are already suffering. We look forward to continuing to provide food for our community but cannot survive without markets.*

Celia Rutt  
Virginia Foodshed Capital

Mitch Wapner  
Paradox farm

Beth Kuhn  
*We need to support local farmers through this crisis. If needed, modify how farmers markets operate, but do not close them. Consumers also need healthy, freshly picked produce in order to stay well.*

MATTHEW POWELL  
BLACK CREEK FARM

Ryan Staab  
Capstone Mushroom

Erika McFaden  
Bedford VA Farmers Market

Tara Williamson  
Botetourt Farmers Market
*Thank you so much for the support.*

Erin Lisenby  
Sweet Land Farm

Robert Lisenby  
Sweet Land Farm

Dan Lefever  
BioRational Resource
*Look on this as a way to stimulate local economies by having a direct supply chain to consumers, it likely will have long term consequences as more people embrace buying local*

Robert Ferrell  
VABF
*My Farmer's market is the best source of locally grown organic food. This is critical to good health. Please help these markets survive this crisis. Thank you.*

Allison Minehart

Mugsy Lunsford  
DogTown Lounge

Katy Vander Woude  
*I am a weekly attendee of our local farmers market and GREATLY rely on their fresh produce all spring, summer and fall to help*
keep my family healthy and to supply my
garden, as they are a trusted source of
good, nourishing food. My family greatly
relies on our local farmers market to supply
us with food to eat and for our garden.
Thank you!!

Elise Scott
Pearl Fine Teas

Walter Burnett
Three Springs Farm/Lynchburg Community
Market
Farmer’s Market is my primary source of
income

Danielle Bonvini

Jacklyn Best
Feathers for Pleasure
If stores can sell products from farmers then
the farmers should be able to sell their
products.

Christine Lucaci
Huckle & Goose

Martha Magroski
local resident

Carol Shapiro

Jenna
Farmer and customer

Ed Choplin
Copper and Corks

Brandon Wolford
Town of Wytheville Parks & Recreation

Sherry MacLaughlin

Kelly Wright

Nicole Harmon

Molly Kroiz
Georges Mill Farm Artisan Cheese

Tonya Newsome
The Hoot All Natural

Ginny Gum
Guncotton Coffee and Gallery

Pam Kenney

Sinai McGrady
I am a patron not a farmer or vendor

Allison Jarvis

Brian Doyle
Doyle's Greenhouse and Produce
As a farmer of Fresh local produce and vegetable starts to grow your own it is essential that we are able to bring our products to markets during this time of uncertainty. The less people that handle the food before you consume it the better we will be able to control the spread of this awful virus.

Sharon Ward
If the national distribution chain begins to break down, local farmers will be critical in providing citizens with fresh food. Please do not be short-sighted. We need our farmers.

Penelope Ferguson
Citizen
Let’s Win!!

Beth Austin
Spotsylvania Farmers market

Justine Jackson-Ricketts

Keya

Amanda
VCU health

Jeremy Adam Musselman
Cardinal State Butchers

Mary Fouse
Aromatic Synergy Corp
This is needed not only for the public but the farmers

Saul Pasco
Owner at Apple Horse Farm Meats

Connie Rogers
Lost Acre Farm

Nancy Murphy
Wellness Connection Farmers Market

Caroline Peterson
Thank you! The farmers market is the anchor of our health and of our community!

Robin Cummings
Bon Air, Virginia

Christine Bowlen
Virginia Association of Biological Farmers
I buy more food at my local Farmers Market than I do at the grocery store. Please keep the markets open

Bill Ahrens
Mount Alto Sungrown, LLC
Supporting and enabling more farmers markets now is a great thing for everyone. Please help accelerate a program that puts more safe, nutritious, local food into Virginia’s communities. Thank you!

Kathleen
Lynne Ferguson

Suzanne Reamy
self-employed

Summer Rain Ursomarso
My parents are both vegetable growers and distributors. In times of crisis, local farmers are the ones that support communities. Give them a way to stay afloat now and they will provide for communities when we need it most.

Amanda Holland
Holland Custom Signs

John haddad
Epicuriousities

donald b call

Todd garabedian
Oak Top Farm LLC
As a small farm, especially being our first year farming, without the markets could be the end of my farming career. We need the farmers markets, they are critical to providing alternative food outlets to the community in these times when the food sources are uncertain.

Saswati Khandat
SHRM

Sorchie Aaron

Edward Savage
Savage Acres, LLC

Erica Wells
A Waste Not Kind Of Life
Local farmers who support sustainable growing practices are critical for the future of our food system. We must be able to support them and farmers markets are the best way how.

Brad Constable
Crumptown Farm

Russ
Oak Top Farm

Angie Benge
Cake maker

Sienna So
Paloma’s Farm
We need access to fresh healthy food more than ever. And we need small farms to help us through it.

Rose Ransom
Agriberry

Tray Allen
Experience Old Town Warrenton
Harrisonburg Farmers Market
This is the safest place to purchase local foods and produce. Vendors are more concerned about the safety of their customers and their products, because it is their name and business. Contamination is less likely as the booths are outdoors. Please keep Farmers Markets open.

Judith McGeary
Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
It would be great if you could adjust the form to allow for individuals to sign on as well.

Nancy O’Neal
Silk by Nancy

Anne Hershbell
Consumer
I am a farmers market consumer who wants continued access

Clara Vaughn
Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission
One role in my position at the PDC is promoting economic opportunities for farmers.

Rebecca Zirkle White

Faith Phillips

Julia Mason
Mason International Trade

Tracie Harrah
Under The Green Umbrella business owner and local food shopper
We need local food. It is the safest

Amanda Faller
Amy’s Garden

Lola Ann Majure
Weston Price Foundation

Tara Powers
Vanilla & Bourbon
My families main source of income is farmers markets, closing them would be devastating to my family and other small businesses and farmers. Big box companies can weather the storm but is micro businesses can not without our farmers markets.

Gary D. Lynch
Hen Fruit Farm

Paul Winston
Richmond

Austin Green
Hatch Kitchen RVA

Deb Manzari

Richard Nunnally
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Statement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebekah Hartman</td>
<td>Richmond Integrative and Functional Medicine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomi Kaiser</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Smith</td>
<td>Locally, I can find local meat and produce that I can't count on chain stores for. And do so in an open-air environment that seems patently safer than huge high traffic stores with trucked food from all over. This is important to consumers and to the small businesses and communities involved!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Downs</td>
<td>Henrico County Public Schools</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teresa Frantz</td>
<td>IOW Dept of Tourism</td>
<td>A lot of my vendors / farmers are dependent upon the markets for their living.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eileen mellon</td>
<td>Richmond magazine</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Hickman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leigh Greener</td>
<td>Please allow farmers markets to operate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Susanne Cummings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Koconis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Noriega, MS</td>
<td>Healthy Living and Learning Center @ Petersburg Library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meredith Archer</td>
<td>MOTHER shrub</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>marilee Mifsud</td>
<td>University of Richmond</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zachary Zwart</td>
<td>Porterfield Run Farm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jil Davis</td>
<td>ThorneBrook Farms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tori</td>
<td>Chesterfield resident</td>
<td>Many businesses rely on these being open. With brick and mortar stores closing left and right. The strain on our grocery stores to adequately shop it just doesn’t seem like the best idea to shut down farmers markets right now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marina Stevenson</td>
<td>Harrisonburg Farmers Market</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Bradley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie Anderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Bresa</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Floyd Eco Village Farm

England Avis
Allegheny Mountain Institute - Staunton City Schools

Heather Cribb
Virginia Fresh Match

Allen Hancock
Buddy’s BBQ

Sara Holloway
Please keep farmer’s markets open!!!

Amber Vallotton
Virginia Tech-SPES
I fully support this with the idea that all precautions are taken to protect public health and adherence to best handling practices. I and several of my colleagues have been involved with many trainings (throughout the state) aimed at market farmers to train and equip them in risk assessment and handling practices. I absolutely agree that farmer's livelihoods need to be protected during this challenging time. I also think an argument could be made that farmers markets are just as safe, if not safer, than retailers. Further, there are steps farmers markets could take to provide more space to reduce crowding, or options for purchasing. Please take an approach that is well thought out rather than a knee jerk reaction.

Ted Greener

D.E. Coghill
As a consumer I can tell you I would much rather buy produce direct from the farmer, usually in an open air environment. This is much better than a closed grocery where countless people have had contact with my produce. It's much less likely that my produce has been handled by more than a couple of folks. Please, for the health of consumers, keep our farmers markets open!

Alicia O'Mara
I'm a regular patron of the two markets closest to me. I prefer them for the majority of my food purchases

Bradley Yoder
Wytheville Farmers Market

Jessica Rice
Potomac Vegetable Farms
Farmers markets are vital to those who cant access grocery stores or need more food availability options or for health reasons

Elise Warmbrod

Jeremy Elder
elderhouseArts

Jane Brookman
We depend on our Farmers Market for all of our fresh vegetables and fruit.

David Roberts
Regular Shopper at several Farmer's Markets
The vendors from which I buy provide the highest quality, local produce, that is minimally touched and processed, and is much better than what is available at commercial stores.

Diane Cline

Sibylle Thaler
Virginia Tech

Tiffany Payne

Monique Eden
FCSC

Meagan
MTO KOMBUCHA

Deirdre Hackleman
Forge Feral

Justin McKenzie
City of Charlottesville

Erin Nolon

Debbie Belcher

KC Whitsett

Donna
As a consumer, please leave the farmers markets open!

Mark Heaney
Green Acres Family Farmstead, LLC

SHEILA D JOHNSON
Thinking of You Creations

Anthony Muilenburg

Dustin
SoulShine Farms

Amy Page
Lydia's Fields

Scott Ramsey
VCU

Kim Woodwell

Leslie Vanover
Marion Farmers Market

Tracy Frey
Virginia Farmers Market Association
The economic impact this is having on small businesses like farmers, bakers and watermen cannot be understated. As we were just coming out of a mild winter with little income, a shut down of farmers markets across the state has been devastating, already. Please allow farmers markets to remain open to provide much needed food to our communities and a source of income for very vulnerable small business owners.

Cyndee Scible

It is safer to shop in smaller groups outside in the open air than inside a closed grocery store. Our customers view their farmers market AS their weekly grocery store. Many of them don’t shop elsewhere.

William C Hatchett

Emily Caldwell
VA Foodie
Local makers and farmers are the life blood of the commonwealth!

Liz Faucher
Leap Frog Farm

Don Dillon
Full pocket farm

Sara Hudson
West End Farmers Market; St. Stephen’s Farmers Market
I am a faithful customer at several Richmond area farmers markets, as well as the parent of a farm employee. Now, more than ever, we need healthy locally-grown food. And, we need to support our local farmers. Shopping at the farmers market is less risky than shopping at the grocery store, and it must be preserved for the health of our families.

Yhanni

Barbara Rosholdt
Virginia Association of Biological Farmers
I frequent many farmer’s markets.

Jill Doczi
Western Branch Farmers Market
Valerie Salmon
Under the Green Umbrella

Kelly Highfill
*These markets keep us fed when the grocery stores run out! Please don't shut out our food sources and their income!*

Ann G. Harrell
Catawba Valley Farmers Market

Danielle Warlitner

Beth Justice
Urbanna Farmers Market

Meredith Ledlie Johnson
VAFMA

Shari Schaefer
*Please keep markets open!*

Lisa Cummins
Citizen

Regular market shopper at Harrisonburg Farmers Market

Lisa Specter-Dunaway

Alice Phillips
*This is safe enough, important for citizen health, and vital to the community economy. It is no less safe than going to Target or the grocery store.*

GINGER RUCKER
Making It Real

Jean Roznik
The Free Market

Eileen Waugh

Andrew Schenker
GreenStarFarm
*We had double usual sales on March 14, 2020 market.*

Lisa Watlington
Martinsville farmer's market

Gabriella Freckmann

Heather Dedie

Amy Houston
Girls Day Out

Amanda Tevis
Mosaic ATM
John Graham
Graham's Woodworks

Ed Stephens
Precise Portions
Consumers should have access to locally produced food products.

Beth Metzger

Karen Ford

Molly Ellis

Brad
Society of North American Goldsmiths

Layne Anderson
Amy's Garden

Riko C. Metzroth
Riko C. Metzroth Insurance Agency, Inc.
Socialized Distancing is more easily maintained in a Farmers Market setting.

Carolyn Cooper Wright
South centre corridors research, conservation and development council

Vineeta Anand

Jennifer Fleming

Larry Fisher
Permaculture Guild

Jackson Nash
Shore Drive farm market

Samuel Pedersen
SBP glassworks
The market accounts for 90% of my sales. I will be greatly affected by the closure.

Kathryn Haines
Signing on behalf of my family of 6

Sheila Kelly
Skelly Skills
Keeping Farmer’s Markets open is essential to supporting our nation’s nutritional health and immunity during this crisis. Pls keep them open!

Loreann H Grimes
Frontier Kitchen
We have 60 food businesses and many of them vend in multiple markets

Marshie
Birdhouse Farmers Market
My mom and I frequent the Birdhouse Market weekly in the summer to fill our fridges with local fresh produce. It is the most economic and freshest way for us to get our groceries and we heavily rely on it during those months. Without access to the market we would have to pay more and expose ourselves to illness by entering an
actual store where people are contained. Many of our local farmers rely on the income from the market to stay in business. If they go out of business altogether we will no longer have access to the healthiest foods for our family.

Sherri A Azais
Premier Partner Services

Ilene White Freedman
House in the Woods Farm

Carolyn Hicks

Barret Meredith
South of the James Farmers Market
I would argue that open air Farmers Markets are much safer options for food procurement. Don’t hurt Virginia's small farmers while allowing the grocery stores to remain open. It makes no sense, this is our livelihood and only source of income for many.

Trent
Lil’ Sprouts Microgreens, LLC

P Hicks

James Veltri
Millstream Farm Virginia

Kara Siewers
Woodside Farms

DAAnn Stoddard

Jamie Rike
2 Dye 4

Laura Alario
Loudoun county resident

Catherine Nunley
Rocky Mount Farmer's Market
The Farmer's Market is the safest way to buy good. With minimal (as little as 1 person) people have handled it and the opportunity for Covid-19 to spread by contact is significantly less than grocery stores. We ask that you continue to allow us to provide safe, healthy, local, options for those in our communities. Thank you!

Sarah Ramsay
Loudoun Valley Homegrown Markets Cooperative
Farmers markets are my primary source of food and many people rely on them heavily to support their community and families.

Michelle O'Leary
Allied Electronics & Automation

Vivian Doyle
Mulberry Creek nursing and rehab

Sloane Solanto
The Creative Wedge
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Company/Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kristy Hudson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Murphy</td>
<td>wandering cow farm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>If you truly had a commitment to small business the farmers markets would be open.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mindy Stiles</td>
<td>Ferrum Chicken Lady</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Stewart</td>
<td>South of the James Farmer's Market</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathleen Leatherwood</td>
<td>That Crazy English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susannah Anderson</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Edith Johnson</td>
<td>Grow RVA SOJ Market</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Myers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Gill</td>
<td>Carol Gill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Niall Duffy</td>
<td>Two and a Half Irish men Inc.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><em>I have 4 employees and without the markets we will not be able to stay in business</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emilie Davis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>K Cosco</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Miller</td>
<td>Chaotic good tempeh</td>
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<tr>
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<td><em>For the love of god don’t destroy all these small businesses. They are the soul of our country.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paula</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Wade</td>
<td>Capital City Candle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Holly Hood  
Independence Farmers Market  
*Please don't close farmers markets we depend on them to get by.*

Benjamin Parker  
Parker Family Farm

Evan  
Vendor

Kim Salyers  
Parkway Brewing

Lydia Parker  
Parker Family Farm

Christina Teeuwen  
Teeuwen Greenhouses Ltd  
*Farmers are the backbone of the USA*

Rebecca Lillywhite  
LulusLocalFood  
*Keep our farmers growing!*

Damian Powell  
islsnac LLC  
*Please preserve the wholesomeness of our communities.*

Ellen Flemer Traylor  
Walnut Hill Farm Produce

Wanda Cornwell  
The Town of Ashland, VA

Gabe Skinner  
Nelson County Farmer's Market

Sergio Izaguirre Jr  
Crazy Farm

David Sheldon  
Hampton Roads Winery, LLC

Marissa McNall

Karen Cobb  
City of Franklin Farmers Market

Alice Noyes  
South of the James Market  
*These community based markets are essential for keeping local economies feeding and employing local citizens.*

L. Charles Flemer, III  
Walnut Hill Farm Produce

Caelie  
Head start

Katie Abbott  
Katie Abbott | Integrative Nutrition & Wellness

Lauren
Molly Carey
I used to work for FRESHFARM, which runs 30+ markets in the DMV. FMC is also an NSAC member and we are all very concerned about how farmers will continue to thrive if their markets get shut down (any direct-to-consumer markets: farm to school, restaurant sales, and farmers markets). We are also concerned for shoppers using nutrition assistance benefits like SNAP/WIC/SFMNP, who not only rely on the markets for access to local healthy food they can spend their benefits on, but also matching dollars and incentive programs that allow their money to go further and are only available at outlets like farmers markets. We are also concerned about organizations that operate farmers markets as well - if markets close, market organizations lose their income too and won’t be able to pay their staff. Please, please, please help us keep these vital economic opportunities open for farmers, consumers and market organizations. The lives and livelihoods of many within the food system depend on them. Thank you.

Liza Miller
Fourteen Acres

Margaret Heyssel

Joshua Williams
Farmer

Zach Brenner
Auntie Ning’s LLC
Please let us open the markets! We are completely locked out right now and cannot serve our customers or make any money for our business.

alexander kling

Emily

Roberta Durham
Independence Farmers' Market/Grayson Landcare

Suzanne Ferrell

Sarah

Ken Spero
Business owner/vendor
To allow confined stores to operate and prohibit outdoors markets to operate is discriminatory.

Christine Flack-Blazier

Brittany

Lois Lobo
Black Boar Farm

John C Moore
retired
Vendors need signs to (1) maintain distance from others and (2) not touch products unless ready to buy them.
Charles Renninger
customer

Jenny Sawyers

Grant Collier
Wild Earth Fermentation

Joseph Sommer
South of the James Market

Richard Burton
Timeless Twist

Charles Wade
Deep Roots Milling

Mary Jo Lowery
Mary Jo Lowery Yoga Doula

Benjamin Beichler
Creambrook Farm

Anne deButts

Jill keen

Mary Hutchinson

Veronica Walton

West Luray Recreation Center

Rod Cobble
Hydro-Pure Microgreens

Christina crowder

Mark Schroeder
Concordia Lutheran Mission

India

Ruth Meyer
I purchase at farmers markets weekly.

Michelle Busby
Beans and Rice

Lisa Gershkoff

Jeff Dion
vendor
Keep the markets open. Please. Thank you.

Lorraine Fortier
individual farmer's market customer
Thank you for doing this!

David Carey
I support the Charlottesville Farmers Market.
Nora K Narum  
*I miss the food from South of the James market and am worried about our farmers too.*  

Karel Bunker  
Bunker Farms LLC

Mike Cullipher  
Cullipher Farm Inc

Sarah Swain

Andy Cavender  
Monrovia Farm

Debra Abbott  
Charlottesville City Market

Jena Mayfield

Kate Whitehead

Rob Slosser  
Human  
*Please don’t make this crisis worse and close farmers markets*

Lauren Seemann

Angelina Forgnone

Gail Steele

Susan Gorman

Erin Lingo  
Shalom Farms

Franklin L. Runge  
*I am a citizen that relies on farmers markets for my primary food source. Thank you!*

Lucinda H Bryce

Emily Murphy

Sandra K. Lockhart  
Private Citizen

Megan

Philip Coulling  
Mr.

Barbara Hill

Faye E Passmore
Tom Dorfler
Heather
Jeremy Kerber
Wicked Good Wood
Chris Clayton
Hungry Hill Farm
Coniston Roberts Wright-Zink
Tyler Hoffman
Vivi Rogers
Erin Kist
Bill Drumheller
Jewel Laclair
Liam
Ryan Furgurson
John Beckelheimer
Grant Turner
Pamela Mason Wagner
Sallie Singletary
Mary Beth Schillaci
Mary Kelly
Elijah Zimmerman
Joan T Jay
Sandy Burke
Shawn L Dalle Lucca

it's important to keep a supply of fresh food coming especially now - please don't shut down the outdoor markets.

Farmer's Markets are a vital source of my food supply. They are safer than retail box store supermarkets as they are open air & smaller numbers of people attend at a time.

Availability to food is vital.

We need local food.
I prefer to shop farm markets, please don’t take them away when I need it most

Ellie Coggins

Please allow open Farmer’s Market to help combat the virus

VIC MONTI
WOODLANDWORKS
Please allow open Farmer’s Market to help combat the virus

Jenna Hill

Patrick Olwell
Olwell Flutes
I consider my neighborhood market as an essential source for healthy food

Pete Vigour

John Barker
All Things Bright and Beautiful

Patrick Odehnal

Aaron P Olwell
Olwell flutes

Erin Fowler

Dee Morris

Sabrina Duff

Matthew Rohdie
Carpe Donut LLC

Chad

Gail Hobbs Page
Caromont Farm
Farmers Market sales are the main part of our yearly sales. We will not survive without them.

Jenna Hill

Katherine Herman
Gathered Threads

John Siegfried
Wades Mill

Mark Jones
Sharondale Mushroom Farm

Sharon Kirk
customer of Lexington Farmers Market

Emilie Tydings
Blacksburg Community Farmers Market

Nataly Perez
South of the James farmer market

James Slabaugh

Lawrence Fees
City Market

Cesar Aguilera
Happy Arepas

Claudia Urrea
My Empanada

Icka Cantilo
Square of the Bone
Vending is 99% of my individual income

Angie Hogan

Hillary Horn
Clover Top Creamery

Laurel Kargel
Laurel Woods Farm
My sole income are the farmers markets

Joyce Cambron

Jack
Recluse roasting project

Sarah
Lynchburg City Market

Linda Kirby
The Amethyst Center
The food shortage is bad enough without closing of farmers markets. WE NEED FRESH FOOD!

Lynette Meynig
Charlottesville City Market

Cass Cannon
Peg’s Salt
Nature is providing a seasonal benefit during this natural crisis. Let’s not miss the moment.

Cindy Dulik

Joanne Navarra
Garden Gate House

Joanne Navarra
Garden Gate House

stasia Greenewalt
Local Food Hub

Shaylynn Edwards

Connie DeLamater
Delly’s Delights Farm

April Erskin

Katharine Pfaltz

Stacy M Miller
good phyte foods, LLC
Collin Gallahue
*Keep the markets open. It makes no sense to close local farmers' markets but keep larger grocery stores open. Farmers markets are essential to getting local food to the population during this COVID crisis*

M. Elizabeth Nowak
Freight Staion Farmers Market, WInchester, VA

Fran Hooper
*We go to farmers markets EVERY week*

Ethan Pompeo
Green Valley Nutrition LLC
*These cancellations are ridiculous and do nothing to stop the spread of disease!*

Catherine Parisian
*It is a 45 minute drive to reach a supermarket from our home. The Farmer's market is a 2 minute drive. With proper social distancing guidelines in place, these markets are essential to our food supply.*

JOANNE HUTTON

Taylor Medley
Weathertop Farm

Jeremy Houser

Anne Kidd
Seamans Orchard LLC

Cassidy Kennedy

Melva Hawkins

Brian Rayner
Brian Rayner Design

Ellen

Chris Girardot
RavenHook Bakehouse
*It is safer shopping outside with more space between people than in a cramped grocery store.*

Nancy Maxson
none
*Keep farmers markets from new regulations or from being shut down in the future.*

Elena Rodriguez
*I strongly believe that we can make this work. Please do not shut down our farmers' markets!*

Jeannie McConkey

Tiffany

Tiffany

Larry Grove
Belle Ridge Farm
Leona Rickerson
Char’Rese Finney
Mary Rike
Jenny Hopkins
Big Arms Farm
Kate Wofford
Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley
_Thank you!_
Inga Haugen
Virginia Tech
Casey Gustowarow
The Farm at Sunnyside
Coles Jennings
Grace Foster
Sallie Godwin
Miranda Bennett
Elizabeth Melson
Brynn Deakins-Hull
Hill Girl Crafts
Conner M Sankey
Earl Zimmerman
Daniels Run Peace Church
Paige Craft
Just bee kind
David C Holmes
Rita Krenz
Joanne Sweeney
Olivia
Blacksburg Farmers Market
Bill Fleming
Virginia Association for Biological Farming (VABF)
Farmers Markets are an economic necessity for local growers.
Dave O’Neill
Radical Roots Farm
Kristi Fletcher
Lucas M Miller
Mrs Yoders Kitchen
Kirsten Conrad
Virginia Cooperative Extension

Jane rike

Sara Barton

Linda Williams
I support my local farmers and depend on them for as much of my meat, dairy, grain and produce as possible.

Maryann mcdevitt

Mayra

Trent Tebbe
Three Monkeys Farm

Jessica Peck
Rooster Dirt Farm
Farmers markets ARE essential. Not only are they many farmers’ main source of income, they are also many folks’ main source for healthy, nutrient dense foods.

Jolinda Smithson
Shapes & Colors

Melanie Lewis
Rill Cross Farm

Henry Staples
Please allow our Virginia Farmers Markets to remain open as we rely on their produce. It is especially important right now as I am on a low iodine diet and I know that I can rely on my producers to provide the fresh vegetables and fruits that I require for my diet. Thanks.

Sidney Hall
Moon Maiden’s Delights
My business greatly depends upon the farmer’s market to continue operating. We are taking extreme precautions to provide safe, nutrient dense food to our community.

Jenna Bradshaw

Tiffany Burns
University of Cambridge
Smaller gathering and locally grown items are not only safer and have more nutrients but support local economy and boost morale. Stay open!!!

Kate Ruby
Birdhouse Farmers Market

Carter Morrison
Farmer’s Markets are especially important during the COVID-19 crisis, as a way for consumers to get produce and goods from a shorter supply chain with less chance for compromised products.

Paige Smith
C. Kasey

Todd Gonzales

Barbara Densley
The Creative Wedge, an Artisan Market
*Our business would be severely impacted should we not be able to be a vendor at Farmers Markets!!*

Beth E Shelly
Chestnut Grove Farm

Althea B Wellman & Michael A Zettel
Ternion Springs Farm, LLC
*We feel that this is important for our communities.*

Sarah Cozadd
*This is the only way to support the backbone of Virginia and help keep fresh produce and products in the homes of the citizens*

Alison Kindler
Private individual

Jen Downey
Carpe Donut

Christina Goldstein
Waddle Om Farm
*Local Farm food sources are extremely valuable at this time.*

Katherine Schofield
Schofield Farm

Lesly Gourdet
LGs Elixir LLC
*There is nothing better than access to healthy, fresh and alive food in this challenging moment!*

Erin
SCAN

Amanda Geary

Dana Wright
*Let people eat!!! In doing so advise person to person distance restrictions even while outdoors. Also implement sanitation/cleansing hand stations or available wipes. Everyone must bring their own bags as well. Thanks you!*

Tia
Customer of farmers markets

Lisa Caplinger
VAFMA

Kate Bennis

Sarah Rodriguez

Clara Metzler
Gayane Avagyan  
Double H Farm

Elisa M Wood  
Wood Energy Writers

Ara Avagyan  
Double H Farm

David Hunsaker  
Village Garden RVA LLC

Julie Clare

Dan Goldberg  
Consumer/friend to several farmer market vendors  
*Not only are farmers markets safe & effective for consumers, many vendors lively hoods rely on markets. If those people are able to support themselves they will need less government support to get through this difficult time.*

Joanne Walton

Angelo Vangelopoulos  
The Ivy Inn Restaurant  
*I recognize the importance of our community market staying open in these trying times. Having an open air shopping arena will be good for us in every way.*

William G. Wood

Elizabeth Damitz

Rachel Jones  
Consumer of VA (Williamsburg) farmers market

Jenifer Kurtz

Lisa

Shan

Kathy Smith

Elizabeth S Wafler  
occasional vendor  
*Just so glad you are doing this for the farmers! Thank you!*

Rheanna Derrick  
*Keeping the markets open reduces the amount of traffic in stores in an outside environment and vitamin D is beneficial for everyone right now!*  

Lizmarie Zambrana  
Healing Moon Co

Jennifer Clatterbuck

Aaron Grigsby
Nancy Dennis
Staunton Farmers' Market Customer

I would assume things will be better soon we cannot afford to lose this income or it will ruin us.

Zack Baber

Tony Cambio
Tony Cappuccino’s Caffe Cafe

I purchase groceries from farmers markets as a healthy alternative to grocery stores. I prefer to know the people who produce the food my family eats.

Rebecca Lunsford
Natural Roots Farm

Joshua Guptill
Rehoboth Farm

This is how we stay in business, markets are our bread & butter.

Ryan Lee
The Homestead Oven
Thank you!

Mark Barham

Robert Cissell
Nature's Bridge Farm

Brandy Stargell
Stargell's Apiaries and Bee Supplies, LLC

Corey

Ladonna Winnegan

Andrea J Burns
Chronic Health, LLC

Beverly Keane
Nine
I am a consumer and purchase at farmers markets.

Annie Jacobs
owner operator
We have people who rely weekly on our products and we in turn rely on regular financial support. We offer carefully selected, carefully crafted and carefully prepared items for our public. Safety is a priority along with quality products. Our livelihood also depends on farmers market.

Julia Sabin
Local Global Pantry

Christopher P Downey
home/family

I am a consumer and purchase at farmers markets.

Robert Cissell
Nature's Bridge Farm

Andrea J Burns
Chronic Health, LLC

Kenney Demick
Weston A. Price Foundation

Riley Koren
Kathy Mejasich
Wesley Housing

Joshua Plante
The fermented pig

Danielle Omar
Danielle Omar Nutrition

Diane Marie
Creative stamping/ Stampin up
Just that other small business that are starting off rely on these markets as well

Danielle Stocker
Rainbow's End Farm

Britney Rudolph
Deer Run Farm

Kerry Johnson
Cowen Design Group
Enacting safety protocols to keep people away from one another, food covered and all surfaces sanitized and crowds dispersed is important.

Averette Lackey

Amelia McQueen

Gwen Woodmansee

Ann Kim
BON BECCA

Ed Scerbo

Chelsea Miller

Stephanie A Ganz
Birdhouse Farmers Market

Kathleen
Rooster Dirt Farm

Stephani keen
I am a ICU nurse and public health nutrition student. I urge you that this is necessary and vital!

Eric Pawlowski
Enewetok Gardens

John Heerwald

Diane Elliot
Local Roots- A Farm to Table Restaurant
This is the time to support our local economies and our local farmers. With market guidelines such as already bagged produce, use of credit cards preferred or cash placed down on the table, keeping our distance, plus being in the fresh air, we are contributing to people's health. There are way fewer people in the food supply chain at a farmers market, handling the food than at a big grocery store! This has to be at least
as healthy as a supermarket and probably more healthy. Do NOT close these markets.

Monica Paul

Kyung Lee

Jeanie Hash
Family farm

Kathy Sewell
Aunt Kathy’s Sweet Potato Pie LLC

Glory Geoghanagan

Ellen Stemman Vest

Maureen Stotland

Joel Slezak
Free Union Gras Farm

I am not a vender but a buyer of produce and plants brought to our market and very much want it to open this spring

Paul Karns

Mackenzie Cissell
The Farming Artist

My husband and I are both small business owners who rely on the markets beginning in April for a majority of our yearly income. The inability to sell our products at our markets will be detrimental to our finances as we try to come up with other outlets to effectively support our family of six. We have heard from customers that they are upset they will not be able to access fresh, local foods that they also come to rely on in the spring and summer months. Please consider allowing farmers markets in the commonwealth to continue operating; the livelihoods of hundreds and thousands of your constituents depends on it.

Tiffany

Amelie Sheppard

Tonya
Haley's Honey meadery

Nicole Wise
Market purchaser

Martin Angst

Ida Smith
Zero Balancing Health Association
We have received much feedback from our farmers who depend on the Farmers Market as an important part of their income. Shutting down that source of revenue will do irreparable damage and add so much more stress to their already stressful situation. Our market was open last weekend and many of our vendors had double digit percent increase in their sales over the previous week...which tells us that the community needs this source of local and fresh products.

I love Farmers market. Please do not take it away. It is the best thing for our local people. Where else can I purchase fruits, veggies, breads which produce locally. It is the best. Please keep it open.

I depend on our wonderful Farmers Markets to provide fresh, nutritious produce to my clients.
Sarah Tolok

Stephanie
Buyer
*Best source of fresh food around and its the season*

Michele Regine
Comsumer of organic food fron local farmers' marketal
*Supporting pirocsl farmers is critical to my communities physical and economic health. And in these times of extreme uncertainty, it is even more vital that I and my Community be able to access local food that is grown without pesticides.*

Certainly you can understand that the less toxics an individual has in their body, the healthier and more resilient he/she will be able to withstand a viral onslaught such as the current corona virus.

And certainly you can realize that, aside from providing healthy, wholesome produce and products, these local producers are a valuable economic assets socially and n their own right.

Respectfully,
Michele Regine

CaitlinLundquist
Whitehall farm

Josh Freed
Warrenton Farmers Market

Matthew Brazier
Buzz Photo LLC

Mari Johnson
Saunders Brothers Inc

Monica Heffner
Posh Fairy Floss

Sylvia Clute
Individual
*I am not a vendor, just a patron who loves my farmers' market.*

Barbara Fleming

Robert Wollam
Wollam Gardens
*Thank you!*

Robert Wollam
Wollam Gardens

Matt Mulder
Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture
*We support SNAP at Markets. Farmers Markets play an important role in providing food access to the underserved. We are trying to build these programs, and closing the markets will do harm to the progress we've made.*

Diane

Rita Medley
I am writing to keep farmer's markets across the state open in this vulnerable time.

Ginger Rice
Olde Footpath Farm

Judy Funderburk
Arlington County Farmer's Markets
I am writing to keep farmer's markets across the state open in this vulnerable time.

Judy Funderburk
Arlington County Farmer's Markets
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Ginger Rice
Olde Footpath Farm

As a consumer, farmers' markets are the freshest produce my family can eat. The economic survival of these small farmers is essential for the future health of our communities. Local food is essential to the future health of our nation. We practice strict social distancing; this will not be hard to maintain using an outdoor Farmer's
Market that will place more distance between booths, and no longer allow customers to touch products, etc. This is IMPORTANT.

heather Karp

Michal Saunders

Melanie S Wynkoop
Volunteer for my local farmers market

Andrea Vrooman
I am a citizen of the community and believe in the farmer’s market and the open-air policy! It doesn’t make sense that the grocery stores remain open and farmers markets might not! I totally support farmers markets!

Kevin Grim
Alexandria, VA

Anna Ricklin
Fairfax, VA

Lisa Burgess

Christopher L. P. Hatch

G Carusillo

Diane Charles
Fairfax Food Council

*****

The following cities and states have already listed Farmers Markets as essential or critical:

Kentucky
Maryland
Minnesota
Pennsylvania
San Francisco, CA  
San Mateo County, CA  
Travis County, Texas

A copy of the notices reflecting this status are included with this letter.