



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 COVID19 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 our 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.

Julie Kogut

Sing-Along Soap LLC

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

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

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 Stavelly
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

Staunton Farmers market /Harrisonburg
Farmers market

Elizabeth Melson

Archwood Green Barns and Town of
Warrenton

Kristie Chamberlain

FreshFarm

Lisa Dearden

RV Agriculture

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

David McLeish

Abingdon farmers market

James Marzluff

Sweet Greens Farm LLC

Claudia Seixas

Sweet Greens Farm LLC

Jennifer Cole

Clean Fairfax

INDIA BRAHM

Virginia Foodshed Capital

Chris Cirenza

Not Your Mama's Pasta

*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.*

Thomas A Peterson

Blue Door Garden, Inc.

Robert Swennes

Field to Table, Inc.

Cindy Quales

Quales Farms

Timothy Marcus

Divine Swine BBQ

Cyndi Marston

Adam's Apples and Herbs

Kelli Mehl

Abingdon Farmer's market

*Farmer's market is our primary source of
income*

Debbie Burns

Santa Fe Farmers' Market, Railyard

Bonny Rike

2 Dye 4

Aleppish SYR

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'GÖRourke

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

Juliellen 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

Sara

Virginia

Elizabeth Borst

Virginia Community Food Connections
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.

Brett Nobvile

Ninja Kombucha
Farmers Markets account for 75% of our sales.

laura farrell

Robert Mosolgo

Ilana Khin

Wandering River Farm

Julie Burman

One Mustard Seed Soap Company
Single mom and sole support of household

Jerry W` Conner

Four Oaks Farms

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.

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.

Faucher Farms

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!!!

Chase

OverAchieving Tea

Kevin Fletcher

Feed and Fertilizer store

Ashley Lynch

Gateaux Bakery and Cafe

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.

Genevieve Jacobs

Fresh local produce is essential to my health!

Kevin R Damian

VABF member

Kathleen A. Kelley

Art Guild of Greene

Katie Elene

ASD

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!

Rebecca

Owl Moon Farm

Shay Drake

ShayD.Arts

Denise R Zito

Free Union Grass Farm in Free Union, VA

Lee O'Neill

Radical Roots Farm

anthony flaccavento

SCALE, Inc

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

Great Valley Farms, LLC

Patrick Johnson

NANIH Farm and Garden Inc

Theresia Connell

LSUHS

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.

Helen Stratakes

Wolf Hills Coffee

Ron Juftes

Seven Springs Farm

John Prillaman

Charlottesville Farmers Market

Aileen Morse

Shy Fox Farm

Michelle Sieling

Aromas

Wendy L. Goodwin

VABF

Pete Sisti

Greater Richmond Grains, Inc.

Amyrose Miller

Spotted Pig Holler, Inc.

Susan Beachy

Amy Wildermann

VABF

Janelle Myers-Benner

Center for Justice & Peacebuilding

Megan Marshall

Project GROWS

Maria Velikonja

Owner, Carniola Farms, and Arlington VA resident

Alan and Robin

Ulmer's Mountain View Farm

Bonnie Pega

The Great Greenhouse

Debbie Lingerfelt

Lingerfelt Farms

Drew Fridley

Intellectual Property Inc.

Ellen Schrock

The Donut Kitchen LLC

Mark Angelini
Mountain Run Permaculture, LLC

Kadie Elizabeth Britt
Virginia Tech

Patti Rosenberg
Waverly Farms, LLC

Chris Bridge
Oyster grower

Alexia Rojahn
Wingstem Farm

Daniel Key
Truffula Farm

Rachel Palma
Restoration Acres Farm

Autumn campbell
Tomten Farm

Cristin Kovacs
life and living

marco thomas
River-Street Farmers Market

Ruth. Cecilia Colglazier
Valley reekside Farm
*I grow by organic farm games practices and
I depend on the farmers markets to live*

Kym Dunford
Country Roots Farm
*Many families depend on local farmers
markets to provide quality food for their
family.*

Cheryl Bursch
River Street Market

Rick and Jennifer Cavey
Wagon Wheel Farm

Roger Williams
Cedar Mountain Apiary

Audra Sandridge
Trossachs Woodland Farm

Agatha Hannah Grimsley
Organic Growers School

Dan Kittredge
Bionutrient Food Association

Lucas M Miller
Mrs Yoders Kitchen

Eric Christenson
LOKAL Cafe
*Our cafe is a whole foods, plant based cafe
which relies on fresh vegetables from our
local farmer's markets.*

Dan Funkhouser
Optimal Nutrition

Christin Peyper

Oran B. Dillon

LeeAnn Ellis
Virginia Tech

Sylvia Campbell
HCAT/PHOPs

Theresa L Danaher
1954
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>

Howard Pickett

Garner Stewart
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.

Ann Olson
*Virginia Association of Biological Farming
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.*

Amy Hicks
Amy's Garden-a USDA Certified Organic Farm
Food security via locally grown products is key to this tenns 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.

Kathy Cole
Grayson LandCare, Inc.
The Independence Farmers Market is part of Grayson LandCare.

Kayla Rueda
Whistle Lane Farm

Elizabeth Leffel
Leffel Consulting Group

Nancy Lester

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!

S.J. Wolf

Wolf Farm Natural Elements, LLC

Rebecca Wolf

Abingdon Farmers Market

Darrell Volschke

WAPF

Karen

Dream Rock Silo

Ann-Marie Koger

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

Judy Brown
Weston A Price Assoc

Robert Harris Jr
Citizen

Cameron D Terry
Garden Variety Harvests

Sarah Lanzman
Bliss Point Farm

Ann-Marie Stephens
Organic Spice Blends | Precise Portions

Anne Shine
Retired Financial Advisor
The produce at my market is far superior to that at chain groceries.

John Tinning

Dylan House
Abingdon Farmers Market

Francesca Rodriguez
Henrico County Government

NAVFAC MIDLANT

Paul Danaher
W at W, Inc.

Mason Hulen
AARP / Veterans groups / K of C

Brigitta White
Please equate them as groceries

Patti Brewer Cheatham
Farm To Consumer Legal Defense Fund

Anita Roberson
Botanical Bites & Provisions, LLC
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.

Lenora Rose
Independence Farmers' Market
*No
When I heard about this Coronavirus, I thought "Thank goodness for my Independence Farmers' Market; I know where I can get good quality, fresh, some organic produce through the coming months."*

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 savey 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.

Gina Paige

Wilmer Zook

Ellen Ussery

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

Arlington 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

Donna Schick

Amanda Crumpler
Franklin Farmers Market

Karen Rawlings

Paula O'Keefe

Christine S Sparks

Mark Medford
Village Events

Suzanne Alexander
Independence

Marie Spaulding

Ethan Register

Deborah Kushner

Alex Peters

Botetourt Farmer's Market

Marie Smith

Moose Acres Farm

As a small farmer the local Farmer's Market is my primary outlet for getting my fresh produce to the people of my community.

Tonya Newsome

The Hoot LLC

Deidre Thigpen

Wytheville Farmers Market

Kate Meyer

Milby Barn Studio & Chatham Flower Farm
I am on the board of the Delmarva Farmers Union that supports, certifies and includes farmers, restaurants and farm markets that are 90% local

Delora Gillman

Weston Price Foundation

Susan Hill

Small farm conference

Jenifer Musselman

I feel there is a great deal of overreaction to this virus. Leaders can lead by keeping things as normal as possible.

Austin Mandryk

Atelier Farm

John Venskoske

J & W Farm, LLC

Benjamin Clark

Glow Holistic

Our income is generated through the markets and we are fiscally impacted to a great degree by the closure of markets.

Kate Sprague

Resident of Fauquier County

We need to support our Farmers Markets and we need this valuable food source more than ever right now.

Sam Spaulding

Arlington Forest

Michelle Wells

Hearthstone Farm

Brian William Burton

B & B Culinary LLC

Sue Marek

Mareks Farm Market

Don Owens

Loudoun Valley HomeGrown Markets
Cooperative

LVHMC markets also double SNAP dollars, which means that many in our community who are in the greatest need of obtaining

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

Gail Murphy

VABF, Dorey Park Farmers Market

Richard Cheatham

Gary Fralin

Kim Usry

Tara Fuller

Patricia King

Lida Anestidou

Communities in Science

I am a faithful customer of Farmers Markets in Northern Virginia. I am counting on them as a sustainable source of groceries, meat, bread, etc during this time of crisis. Just as people enter SMs obeying rules of distancing and disinfection, they can do the same as they go to FMs. We have to be not only health and hygiene- responsible but socially as well. There are far too many individuals losing their jobs every single day due to the pandemic. Let's not add farmers and vendors to the list. Please keep them open.

Lara Kunkler

Market Patron

Nancy Maurelli

Goose Creek Gardens LLC

THANKS for thinking about this proactively.

Laura Gossin

Debra Lubar Moore

Farm market shopper

I shop at Portsmouth Virginia Farmer's market.

Jane Brummer

Local medical center

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. Bruguere, 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 McFaden
Bedford Va Farmers Market

Adrienne Davis and Earl white
Big Indian Farm Inc.
*In this time of uncertainty we strongly
believe that there is strenght 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

Regina Yurkonis

I would rather shop fresh local foods in an open air setting than imported products in a store.

Jerry Becker

Pa Country Equipment

Annette Naber

Gaylia (Gay) Prejean

Laura E Mayer

Rose Cnudde

I love farmers markets. It supports the local economy

Emily Miller

SBCFAP

Ameya King

Customer of Farmers markets

David L. Via

Piedmont Environmental Council

Good work, well appreciated.

Meade Anderson

I lease land to farmers who participate in farmers markets

Calib Miller

VAFMA

Thank you for your time and consideration in this critical moment!

Sabrina Walker

Independence Farmers Market

Melissa Gladwell-Sayre

Main Street Lexington

Steve Taylor

Taylor Made Chocolate, Inc

Richard Friend

Retired Chef

I would be a customer not a vendor.

Holly Parker

Moon & Stars Farm

The farmers markets are safer than an indoor grocery store.

Lorraine Potter

Inga Foundation

Jessica D Wright

Jazmyne Ortiz

Heliotrope Brewery

I attend the farmers market in a weekly basis eve during the winter. It is how I can

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.

Evrin 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

Larry Lewis

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.

Richard

Vendor @ Harrisonburg Farmers Market

Sandra Vann

Vann Premium Pork

Julie Harry

Michael Dudley

Meadow Acre Gardens

Ray Herndon

Ray's Virginia Produce

Jamie Gerome

Harrisonburg Farmer's Market patron

Mary Delicate

MaryDelicate.com

Tamie Perryman

M2 Flowers and More

Hannah Patrick

National Young Farmers Coalition

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.

Tish Folsom

Springdale Water Gardens

Lou Ann Neely

Riven Rock Farm

Justin Riederer

William N Hale

All-Farm Organics

Siobhan Ford-Holland

Julian Cha

Hospital

Sue Collins

Shopper

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

Carol Shapiro

Jenna

Farmer and customer

Sherry MacLaughlin

Kelly Wright

Molly Kroiz

Georges Mill Farm Artisan Cheese

Pam Kenney

Sinai McGrady

I am a patron not a farmer or vendor

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 Lucaciu

Huckle & Goose

Martha Magroski

local resident

Ed Choplin

Copper and Corks

Brandon Wolford

Town of Wytheville Parks & Recreation

Nicole Harmon

Tonya Newsome

The Hoot All Natural

Ginny Gum

Guncotton Coffee and Gallery

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

Alexander Moore

Anathallo Acres

Kathleen

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!

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

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

Brad Constable

Crumptown Farm

Angie Bengé

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.

Tray Allen

Experience Old Town Warrenton

Rose Ransom

Agriberry

John haddad

Epicuriousities

Sorchae 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.

Russ

Oak Top Farm

Susan Freesen

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

Rebekah Hartman

Richmond Integrative and Functional
Medicine

Tomi Kaiser

D Smith

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!

Erin Downs

Henrico County Public Schools

Teresa Frantz

IOW Dept of Tourism

A lot of my vendors / farmers are dependent upon the markets for their living.

Eileen mellon

Richmond magazine

Rebecca Hickman

Leigh Greener

Please allow farmers markets to operate

Susanne Cummings

Kate Koconis

Amys organic garden

Robert Noriega, MS

Healthy Living and Learning Center @
Petersburg Library

Meredyth Archer

MOTHER shrub

marilee Mifsud

University of Richmond

Zachary Zwart

Porterfield Run Farm

Jil Davis

ThorneBrook Farms

Tori

Chesterfield resident

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 doesnt seem like the best idea to shut down farmers markets right now.

Marina Stevenson

Harrisonburg Farmers Market

Melissa Bradley

Stephanie Anderson

Adam Bresa

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.

Sandra Sarlinga

Piemonte Kitchen & Garden

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

Tina Cunningham

Bear Tree Farms Apiary

Naomi Desilets

Allegheny Mountain Institute

Holly

Oak Top Farm

Laura Lemmon

Joanne Allen

Spotsylvania County Farmer's Market
I would be a complete waste to turn away fresh local food from our farmers. Why wouldn't it be safer to shop outside in the fresh air where there are not a lot of people? So much safer than walking into a grocery store!

Jill Doczi

Western Branch Farmers Market

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.

Regular market shopper at Harrisonburg
Farmers Market

Valerie Salmon

Under the Green Umbrella

Kelly Highfill

*These markets keep us fed when the grocery
stores run out! Please dont 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

Jennifer L Mowad

Cocoa and Spice

Lisa Watlington

Martinsville farmer's market

Gabriella Freckmann

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.*

Jean Roznik

The Free Market

Amy Houston

Girls Day Out

Amanda Tevis

Mosaic ATM

Heather Dedie

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

DAnn 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

Kristy Hudson

Mary Murphy

wandering cow farm

If you truly had a commitment to small business the farmers markets would be open.

Erica

Barbara Stewart

South of the James Farmer's Market

Minerva Martin

JAMs CAKERY

Susannah Anderson

Edith Johnson

Grow RVA SOJ Market

Carol Gill

Carol Gill

Emilie Davis

K Cosco

Rachel miller

Chaotic good tempeh

For the love of god don't destroy all these small businesses. They are the soul of our country.

Mindy Stiles

Ferrum Chicken Lady

Amy

Kathleen Leatherwood

That Crazy English

Sarah Hoffman

Lakeside's Tiny Acre

Ro-Derrick Branch

Newscaster LLC

Melissa Myers

Keith Gurgick

Chaotic Good LLC

Niall Duffy

Two and a Half Irish men Inc.

I have 4 employees and without the markets we will not be able to stay in business

Paula

River City Flame Sauces & Rubs

Rebecca Lawson

Robert Wade

Capital City Candle

Holly Hood

Independence Farmers Market

Please don't close farmers markets we depend on them to get by.

The Town of Ashland, VA

Gabe Skinner

Nelson County Farmer's Market

Benjamin Parker

Parker Family Farm

Sergio Izaguirre Jr

Crazy Farm

Evan

Vendor

David Sheldon

Hampton Roads Winery, LLC

Kim Salyers

Parkway Brewing

Marissa McNall

Lydia Parker

Parker Family Farm

Karen Cobb

City of Franklin Farmers Market

Christina Teeuwen

Teeuwen Greenhouses Ltd

Farmers are the backbone of the USA

Alice Noyes

South of the James Market

These community based markets are essential for keeping local economies feeding and employing local citizens.

Rebecca Lillywhite

LulusLocalFood

Keep our farmers growing!

L. Charles Flemer, III

Walnut Hill Farm Produce

Damian Powell

islsnac LLC

Please preserve the wholesomeness of our communities.

Caelie

Head start

Ellen Flemer Traylor

Walnut Hill Farm Produce

Katie Abbott

Katie Abbott | Integrative Nutrition & Wellness

Wanda Cornwell

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 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.

Amanda Kirby

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

Peach Pies Crafts

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

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

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
Farmer
Availability to food is vital.

Jewel Laclair

Liam

Ryan Furgurson
William B Cave & Associates

John Beckelheimer
Foothills Produce Auction

Grant turner
Brenner pass

Pamela Mason Wagner

Sallie Singletary

Mary Beth Schillaci

Mary Kelly
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.

Elijah Zimmerman

Joan T Jay
Please do not shut down Virginia farmers' Markets! It will destroy this fledgling local industry and deprive us of our fresh local produce for many years to come.

Sandy Burke
We need local food.

Shawn L Dalle Lucca

I prefer to shop farm markets, please don't take them away when I need it most

Ellie Coggins

Pete Vigour

Patrick Odehnal

Erin fowler

Sabrina Duff

Chad

VIC MONTI

WOODLANDWORKS

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

Jenna Hill

John Siegfried

Wades Mill

Sharon Kirk

customer of Lexington Farmers Market

Nataly Perez

South of the James farmer market

Patrick Olwell

Olwell Flutes

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

John Barker

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Aaron P Olwell

Olwell flutes

Dee Morris

Matthew Rohdie

Carpe Donut LLC

Gail Hobbs Page

Caromont Farm

Farmers Market sales are the main part of our yearly sales. We will not survive without them.

Katherine Herman

Gathered Threads

Mark Jones

Sharondale Mushroom Farm

Emilie Tydings

Blacksburg Community Farmers 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 Station 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

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

Kristi Fletcher

Elizabeth Melson
Archwood Green Barns Farmers Market

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'Connell
Radical Roots Farm

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!!

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

Jen Downey

Carpe Donut

Katherine Schofield

Schofield Farm

Erin

SCAN

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!

Lisa Caplinger

VAFMA

Althea B Wellman & Michael A Zettel

Ternion Springs Farm, LLC

We feel that this is important for our communities.

Beth E Shelly

Chestnut Grove Farm

Alison Kindler

Private individual

Christina Goldstein

Waddle Om Farm

Local Farm food sources are extremely valuable at this time.

Lesly Gourdet

LGs Elixir LLC

There is nothing better than access to healthy, fresh and alive food in this challenging moment!

Amanda Geary

Tia

Customer of farmers markets

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

Zack Baber

Tony Cambio
Tony Cappuccino's Caffe Cafe

Rebecca Lunsford
Natural Roots Farm
*I would assume things will be better soon
we cannot afford to lose this income orbit
will ruin us*

Ryan Lee
The Homestead Oven
Thank you!

Mark Barham

Corey

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 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.*

Joshua Guptill
Rehoboth Farm
*This is how we stay in business, markets are
our bread & butter.*

Robert Cissell
Nature's Bridge Farm

Brandy Stargell
Stargell's Apiaries and Bee Supplies, LLC

Ladonna Winnegan

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

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!

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

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 Geoghagan

Ellen Stemann Vest

Maureen Stotland

Joel Slezak
Free Union Gras Farm

MELCINE TALIAFERRO
Bell's Sterling Silver Jewelry

Nicole Wise
Market purchaser

Sandra Pleasants

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

Martin Angst

Ida Smith
Zero Balancing Health Association

Kerri LaCharite
George Mason University

Cynthia C Taylor
Moon Shadow Farm

Ruth Owens
Loudoun Valley HomeGrown Markets
Cooperative
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.

Tenley Weaver
Loca-Motive Aggregator LLC

Traci Wenzel

Bri Grocholski

Willard Lutz
Lutz Farmand services

Chef Gail Hooks
Delectable Dining by Chef Gail
I depend on our wonderful Farmers Markets to provide fresh, nutritious produce to my clients.

Brian

Amy Gentry

James Roberts
Farley's Chesapeake Kitchen
Covid19 Is Temporary, People Are Not

Hyla Cohen

Corinne Greeson
Heritage Farm Organics

Meredith Miller
LSN Soap Company, LLC

Andrew
Boka Tako

Mantana Heim
Farmers market customer
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.

Liza Fierro- Cioffi
Courthouse Creek Cider

Susan Glenn

Sarah Tollok

Stephanie

Buyer

Best source of fresh food around and its the season

Michele Regine

Comsumer of organic food from 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

Diane

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.

Rita Medley

City Space

Hillary Gottemoeller

Wollam Gardens

Karen Hollifield

Independence Farmers Market

Judy Funderburk

Arlington County Farmer's Markets

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

Ginger Rice

Olde Footpath Farm

Jacqueline jimenez

Sheila Mattingly

Restaurant

Joseph P. Harris

Esther Riverson

Kingdom Gourmet Foods LLC

Meredith Aycock

Woodside Farms of VA

Monica Gilliam

Oba! Brazilian Treats LLC T/A Joysicles
Gourmet Pops

Alicia kimi

Cynthia watkins

DJ

HERD Ventures

Melanie Schaefer

Charlottesville City Market Vendor

Loretta Bauer

Danielle Arcese

Linh

Got Dumplings

Catherine Greulich

Timothy Peele

Lindsay Brothers

Brothers Farm market

Marion Morrison

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!

Christopher L. P. Hatch

G Carusillo

Diane Charles

Fairfax Food Council

Ellen CB Fitzpatrick

I am an Arlington County citizen and think keeping Virginia farmers markets open during these unprecedented times is a good idea with very little risk.

Marsha Vonduerckheim

Barnesville Area Bakers

Chloe Johnson

Garden Variety Harvests

Kevin Grim

Alexandria, VA

Anna Ricklin

Fairfax, VA

Lisa Burgess

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.