



January 30, 2020

Rockefeller Foundation
Food System Vision Prize
420 Fifth Avenue
New York City, New York

RE: Agrarian Commons for Central Appalachia and Middle Tennessee

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Tennessee Local Food Summit, I am writing to express our support for the Agrarian Trust's application to the Rockefeller Foundation for the 2020 Food System Vision Prize.

Tennessee's economy is based in agriculture and forestry, generating \$58-billion in economic impact each year. Over the last decade, Tennessee Local Food Summit has played a leading role in convening key stakeholders to define the local food movement across the state, with an eye toward creating a viable food system for all by connecting farms to customers in Middle Tennessee and beyond.

We believe that Agrarian Trust's vision for a Middle Tennessee Agrarian Commons will help to create a secure, affordable land base to attract the next generation farmers and agroecology practices needed for our region's food system to thrive in an uncertain future. Their vision will serve as a long-term stewardship model for sustaining and enhancing food production on some of the region's best farmland.

We look forward to future collaboration with Agrarian Trust to establish and expand these long-term stewardship opportunities for legacy farms in Middle and Eastern Tennessee. With that shared vision in mind, the Tennessee Local Food Summit supports Agrarian Trust's application to the Rockefeller Foundation's Food System Vision Prize program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Poppen".

Jeff Poppen
Owner, Lone Hungry Creek Farm
Director, TN Local Food Summit