



Jan. 30, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Support of Heartland Communities Application for Food System Vision Prize

I write today as a representative of Indiana Farmers Union, as well as Dugger Family Farm, in full support of the Heartland Communities and its application, “Greater Fort Wayne Area Regenerative Food System,” which is being submitted for consideration. Indiana Farmers Union will collaborate with and wholly support the program, which is designed to operate core economic community centers that provide community space for education, food system support and connection.

Indiana Farmers Union is a grassroots organization that works to protect the social and economic well-being of family farmers throughout the Hoosier state. Our membership is as diverse as the agricultural landscape and includes grain farmers, vegetable growers, fruit growers, livestock producers, and dairy farmers. All our members play a role in bringing the issues that matter most to Indiana lawmakers and fighting for their rights as independent family farmers. Our organization is a home for all family farmers who are committed to conserving our state’s natural bounty—whether they are long-established or beginning their agricultural journey.

It is because of this long-standing focus in our work that we believe the Heartland Communities vision and work is integral to the health, well-being and longevity of the Greater Fort Wayne area. This program takes a systemic and holistic approach to community building by integrating food systems, healthcare, child care, education and welfare, and it offers a modern-day reflection of the many ways diverse agriculture communities can feed (both literally and figuratively) Indiana’s urban and rural residents.

Please feel free to contact me at sdugger@nfudc.org or (317) 371-2970 with further questions or to discuss how Indiana Farmers Union can further contribute to this valuable program.

Sincerely,

Sherri Dugger
Executive Director
Indiana Farmers Union