



July 21, 2015

Mayor Farmer and the Lawrence City Council
City Hall
PO Box 708
Lawrence, KS 66044

RE: Letter of Recognition – Innovation in Food Systems Planning & Policy

Dear Mayor Farmer and the Lawrence City Council,

It is our pleasure to recognize the innovative food systems planning and policy achievements of the City of Lawrence and Douglas County governments to strengthen their local food system. Your community's work is being recognized following an extensive research study, Growing Food Connections, funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the US Department of State.

We are impressed with the food systems planning and policy work of the Lawrence and Douglas County governments, namely the food policy collaborations across the city and county governments spanning comprehensive planning efforts, shared staff positions, funding for food systems related programs, joint food systems studies, and support of the Douglas County Food Policy Council. Your achievements are a testament of strong staff leadership as well as strong political support for food policy. Congratulations on this recognition!

As part of [Growing Food Connections](#), we conducted a national scan and identified 299 local governments across the United States that are developing and implementing a range of innovative plans, public programs and projects, regulations, laws, financial investments and other policies to support the economic viability of farmers and improve food access in their community. We conducted exploratory telephone interviews with 20 of these local governments to learn more about how they are strengthening their local food systems. The City of Lawrence and Douglas County were two of the local governments included in our study. We hope that the Lawrence and Douglas County governments will continue to support the food systems planning and policy work in the city and county so that your local governments continue to serve as a national model for others to learn from.

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GROWINGFOODCONNECTIONS.ORG



As a testament to our confidence in your government's innovative food systems planning and policy efforts, we have highlighted Lawrence and Douglas County on both the [Growing Food Connections](#) and [American Planning Association](#) websites, and included several Lawrence and Douglas County policies in the [Growing Food Connections Policy Database](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Leccese, GFC Program Coordinator, at JLeccese@buffalo.edu or 716.829.3782.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Hodgson
Principal, Cultivating Healthy Places

Julia Freedgood
Assistant Vice President, Programs, American Farmland Trust

Samina Raja
Associate Professor, University at Buffalo

Jill Clark
Assistant Professor, Ohio State University

cc: Eileen Horn, Douglas County Board of County Commissioners